

RESOLUTION NO. 20180628-071

WHEREAS, the City of Austin desires to limit the use of pesticides on City owned and managed land that can adversely affect public and environmental health; and

WHEREAS, the City should promote the health of its citizens by limiting exposure to potentially cancer-causing chemicals; and

WHEREAS, all reasonable steps should be taken to maintain the health of our community in a sustainable manner, to the benefit of all residents and future generations; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, the City of Austin authorized the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program to review and regulate pest control activities, requiring that pesticides are used only as a last resort, and only after structural, cultural and biological pest controls and least toxic products are used first; and

WHEREAS, pesticides being used by City departments tasked with weed and pest control contain glyphosate, neonicotinoids or chlorpyrifos; and

WHEREAS, children are the primary users of public parks and are especially sensitive to health risks posed by pesticides. Children's internal organs are still developing and maturing and their enzymatic, metabolic, and immune systems may provide less natural protection than those of an adult; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the organization tasked with registering pesticides it determines are safe under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide

and Rodenticide Act, has taken actions to address health and environmental risks from chlorpyrifos exposure; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the EPA proposed to revoke all food residue tolerances for chlorpyrifos, an active ingredient in insecticides; and

WHEREAS, in March 2017, the EPA Administrator, Scott Pruitt, signed an order denying a petition that sought to ban chlorpyrifos; and

WHEREAS, chlorpyrifos enters the environment through direct application to crops, lawns, domesticated animals, and in the home and workplace. It may also enter the environment through volatilization, spills, and the disposal of chlorpyrifos waste; and

WHEREAS, there is documented evidence that exposure to chlorpyrifos, if touched, inhaled, or ingested, may cause birth defects, fetal deaths, cancer, DNA damage, and other serious illnesses; and

WHEREAS, glyphosate was labelled category 2A by the World Health's Organization cancer agency 'International Agency for Research on Cancer', declaring the chemical as a possible carcinogenic to humans; and

WHEREAS, pollinators are a vital part of agricultural protection with over one - third of all crop production requiring insect pollination; and

WHEREAS, neonicotinoids can be very long-lived in plants and soil, containing harmful levels of neonicotinoids months to years after being treated, and exposures can eventually lead to death of the individual bee or colony; and

WHEREAS, bees and other insect pollinators are under great environmental stress, experiencing die-offs and diminishing populations and negatively impacting major sectors of agriculture, putting food security and environmental ecosystems at risk; and

WHEREAS, an independent review of more than 800 scientific studies concluded that neonicotinoids are causing significant damage to a wide range of beneficial invertebrate species and are a key factor in the decline of bees; and

WHEREAS, the United States Geological Survey has highlighted the growing use of neonicotinoids in the United States and found significant neonicotinoid contamination in our nation's waters, and studies show that neonicotinoids are highly toxic to aquatic invertebrates; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to report on current City policies regarding IPM. The report shall include:

- a. Contact information and a summary of the activities and responsibilities of the City's indoor and outdoor IPM Coordinator;
- b. A summary of City codes, criteria and policies related to IPM, indoors and outdoors;
- c. A summary of how the IPM Program complies with federal and state regulations; and
- d. A summary of City outreach and education programs aimed at reducing potential impacts of residential and commercial pesticide use.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;

In order to facilitate and enhance protection of the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens and environment, the City:

- a. Prohibits the use of all products containing the chemical chlorpyrifos on City owned and managed property;
- b. Prohibits the use of all products containing neonicotinoids, including but not limited to imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam, dinotefuran, acetamiprid and thiacloprid on City owned and managed property; and
- c. Affirms that products containing glyphosate will only be used in accordance with IPM principles on City owned and managed property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That City staff shall immediately notify all contractors performing weed and pest abatement activities for the City of the decision to end its use of chlorpyrifos and neonicotinoid pesticides and limit its use of glyphosate.

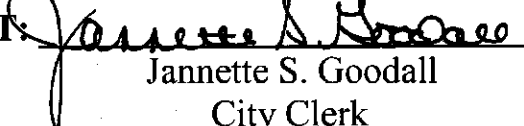
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That City staff shall use all feasible and affordable means at its disposal to alert residents about the City's decision to end its use of chlorpyrifos and neonicotinoid pesticides and limit its use of glyphosate, and to encourage residents to follow the City's example.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City shall ensure that all employees and hired contractors who apply or use pesticides within the scope of their duties on property owned or maintained by the City adhere to the City's IPM Policy.

ADOPTED: June 28, 2018

ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk