CITY OF WEST DES MOINES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING COMMUNICATION

ITEM: Approval of Proclamation
Iowa Honey Bee Day

DATE: February 19, 2019

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

BACKGROUND:

The Iowa Honey Producers Association has requested that the City of West Des Moines approve a proclamation declaring February 27, 2019 as Iowa Honey Bee Day. On that day, a reception will be held at the State Capitol to recognize Iowa Honey Bee Day, and the signed proclamations from the State of Iowa and all participating cities will be on display.

OUTSTANDING ISSUES (if any): None

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of Proclamation declaring February 27, 2019 as "Iowa Honey Bee Day".

Lead Staff Member: Ryan T. Jacobson, City Clerk RTJ

STAFF REVIEWS

Department Director	Ryan T. Jacobson, City Clerk
Appropriations/Finance	
Legal	
Agenda Acceptance	RTJ

PUBLICATION(S) (if applicable)

Published In	
Dates(s) Published	

SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW (if applicable)

Committee			
Date Reviewed			
Recommendation	Yes	No	Split

Proclamation

Iowa Honey Bee Day

February 27, 2019

Whereas, Honey bees and native insects are important as pollinators for a third of the food we eat and honey bees are vital in production of over 90 crops grown across the nation, many of which are in Iowa. Honey bees contribute to a healthy Iowa environment by assuring availability of fruits, vegetables, nuts, and flowers for wildlife and all Iowans.

Whereas, Iowa's 45,000 or more honey bee hives produce about 4 million pounds of honey valued at over $8 million and honey bees provide an estimated $92 million economic value to Iowa crops from their pollination.

Whereas, Iowa has over 4,500 beekeepers representing hobbyists, sideliners as part time businesses and full time commercial beekeepers. Hobby beekeepers have as few as one hive to commercial operations with thousands of hives.

Whereas, Traditionally beekeeping occurred in rural areas of Iowa. Now beekeeping increasingly occurs in urban areas with the rising interest of hobby beekeepers for keeping beehives in Iowa cities and towns.

Whereas, Honey bees face serious threats from invasive pests, decreasing bee friendly forage, variable climate and increasing pesticide and herbicide pressure.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven K. Gaer, Mayor of the City of West Des Moines, Iowa, do hereby proclaim February 27, 2019, to be Iowa Honey Bee Day and encourage all citizens, residents and visitors to join in observing this day and focusing on the importance of honey bees to our state economy, to enjoy the honey and other products of honey bees, to recognize the honey bees' role in maintaining our Iowa environment, and to assist in reducing the threats to honey bee survival in our state.

Signed this 19th day of February, 2019.

ATTEST:

Steven K. Gaer, Mayor

Ryan T. Jacobson, City Clerk