

**City of St. Charles
Ordinance No. 2017-M-**

**An Ordinance Amending Title 6 of the St. Charles Municipal Code, Entitled
“Animals”, Chapter 6.04 “Definitions” by adding Section 6.04.055
“Beekeeping” and Chapter 6.12 “Regulations”, by adding Section 6.12.085
“Beekeeping”**

WHEREAS, the City of St. Charles is a Home Rule Municipality duly organized and existing pursuant to the Illinois Constitution of 1970 and the Laws of the State of Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of St. Charles has found that honey bees can be maintained within populated areas in reasonable densities without causing a nuisance if the bees are properly located and carefully managed; and

WHEREAS, honey bees are a benefit to mankind by providing agriculture, fruit, garden pollination services and by furnishing honey, wax and other useful products; and

WHEREAS, passage of this Ordinance is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of St. Charles.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of St. Charles, Kane and DuPage Counties, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION ONE: That Title 6 “Animals”, Chapter 6.04 “Definitions” of the St. Charles Municipal Code, be and is hereby amended by adding Section 6.04.055 “Beekeeping” to read as follows:

“6.04.055 – Beekeeping: The maintenance of honeybee colonies, for any purpose including, but not limited to, the collection of honey and other products that hives produce or as a hobby.”

Section Two: That Title 6 “Animals”, Chapter 6.12 “Regulations”, of the St Charles Municipal Code by and is hereby amended by adding section 6.12.085 “Beekeeping” to read as follows:

DEFINITIONS: As used in this Section:

“Apiary” shall mean a place where bee colonies are kept.

“Bee” shall mean any stage of the common domestic honey bee.

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“Colony” shall mean a hive and its equipment and appurtenances, including bees, comb, honey, pollen, and brood.

“Hive” shall mean a structure intended for the housing of a bee colony.

Registration of Hives:

All Bee colonies must be registered with the state of Illinois Department of Agriculture.

All bee colonies must be kept in inspectable type hives with removable combs, which must be kept in sound and usable condition.

Fencing/Screening:

All hives shall be screened from neighboring properties by fencing or vegetation at a height no less than six (6) feet.

Signage:

Beekeepers shall conspicuously post a weatherproof sign at least ten (10) inches by one (1) foot on all lot lines facing abutting properties and on the Beehive or Apiary fence outside of the latched gate with the statement, “State Registered Beehive(s) on Property” or similar language that makes clear that bees are on the premises. The sign must be visible and easily read from outside the property.

Water:

Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water within ten (10) feet of the Beehive is available at all times to the bees so that the bees will not congregate at swimming pools, bibcocks, pet water bowls, birdbaths or other water sources where they may cause human, bird, or domestic pet contact. The water shall be maintained so as not to become stagnant.

Maintenance:

Each beekeeper shall ensure that no bee comb or other materials that might encourage robbing are left upon the grounds of the apiary site. Upon their removal from the hive, all such materials shall promptly be disposed of in a sealed container or placed within a building or other bee-proof enclosure.

Prohibited:

The keeping by any person of bee colonies in the City not in compliance with this Section is prohibited. Any bee colony not residing in a hive structure intended for beekeeping, or any colony residing in a standard or homemade hive which, by virtue of its condition, has obviously been abandoned, neglected, or mismanaged by the beekeeper, is unlawful.

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Size and Number of Hives:

Apiaries may consist of not more than two (2) hives on a property consisting of no more than six (6) boxes per hive.

Beehive Location:

Apiaries may only be located and maintained in residential districts with single family owner occupied residences occupied by the Beekeeper.

- (a) Apiaries shall be located only in a rear yard.
- (b) Apiaries shall be located at least twenty (20) feet from all side and rear property lines.
- (c) Apiaries and Beehives shall not be permitted on rooftops or balconies.

PRESENTED to the City Council of the City of St. Charles, Kane and DuPage Counties,
Illinois this ____ day of _____, 2017.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of St. Charles, Kane and DuPage Counties,
Illinois this ____ day of _____, 2017.

APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of St. Charles, Kane and DuPage Counties,
Illinois this ____ day of _____, 2017.

Raymond P. Rogina, Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

COUNCIL VOTE:

Ayes: _____
Nays: _____
Absent: _____
Abstain: _____