

# RESOLUTION

Item # 33929-2

RE:

**To Her Honor, the Mayor, and the Common Council of the City of New Britain:**  
the undersigned beg leave to recommend the adoption of the following:

Resolution Summary: INTENT AND PURPOSE: To add Section 6.37 to the Code of Ordinances to allow for residential beekeeping. Mysterious bee die-offs have afflicted colonies across the nation and also cut the state's bee population by nearly half last year. The U.S. Department of Agriculture pointed out in a 2016 statement "in the United States, honeybees pollinate an estimated \$15 billion of crops each year, ranging from almonds to zucchinis."

WHEREAS honey bees are beneficial to mankind by providing agricultural fruit and vegetable pollination services in tandem with home garden vegetable and fruit production and by furnishing honey, beeswax and other useful products

WHEREAS, domestic strains of honey bees have been selectively bred for desirable traits, including gentleness, honey production, reduced swarming, pollination attributes and other characteristics which are desirable to foster and maintain; and

WHEREAS, gentle strains of honey bees can be maintained within populated areas in reasonable densities to fill the ecological niche and exclude unwanted and undesirable races of bees, without causing a nuisance if the honey bees are properly located, carefully managed and maintained: now therefore

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW BRITAIN that the Chapter 6, Section 6-37 of the Code of Ordinances City of New Britain, be amended as follows: (inserted text appears in underline; deleted text appears in strikethrough; new sections begin with the word [new]):

NEW

Article IV. Honeybees

Sec 6.37. Residential Keeping of Honeybees

The keeping of one or more colonies of the common domestic honeybee, *Apis mellifera*, shall be a permitted accessory use. Colonies include a hive and its equipment and appurtenances including bees, comb, honey, pollen and brood.

A. Standards.

~~(1) The minimum lot size required for beekeeping shall be 6,000 square feet.~~

~~(2) The maximum number of colonies shall be subject to the following limitations:~~

<b>Zoning District</b>	<b>Maximum No. of Permitted Colonies Per Lot</b>
S-3	2
S-2	3
S-1	4

Maximum number of colonies on a property shall be as follows:

- a. 1/4 acre or less – 2 colonies including up to 2 nuclei.
- b. More than 1/4 acre – 4 colonies and up to 3 nuclei
- c. More than 1/2 acre to 1 acre – 6 colonies and up to 6 nuclei
- d. More than 1 acre to 1 1/2 acre – 8 colonies and up to 5 nuclei
- e. More than 1 1/2 acre – 10 colonies and up to 5 nuclei

(1) Colonies shall be located away from road, walkways, or rights of way as follows:

- a. 4 colonies or less – minimum of 25 feet from all property lines.
- b. More than 4 colonies – minimum of 50 feet from all property lines

~~(3) All colonies shall be located in rear yards and shall be located not less than 20 feet from any property line.~~

(2) Bee keeping and production of honey under this section shall not be used for commercial purposes.

(4) A flyway barrier of at least six feet in height must shield any part of a property line within 50 feet of a colony. The flyway barrier may consist of a wall, fence, dense vegetation or a combination thereof, such that honeybees will fly over rather than through the material to reach the colony.

(5) An on-site source of fresh water shall be provide and shall gbe located closer to the hive than any water source on adjacent property.

#### B. Operation and maintenance.

(1) Honeybee colonies shall be kept in hives with removable frames, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition.

(2) Adequate space shall be maintained in the hive to prevent overcrowding and swarming.

#### C. State requirements.

(1) The applicant shall obtain all necessary permits prior to the installation of any colony and shall annually, on or before the first day of October, make application to the State Entomologist for the registration of bees. Following the issuance of the initial permit, no application for a permit or renewal of a permit to keep bees shall be considered until proof of registration with the State of Connecticut Entomologist is provided.