

Legislation Text

File #: 2020-3776, **Version:** 1

Discussion over regulations associated with Beekeeping

Issue/Request:

Discuss greater allowances for the placement of bee colonies. Primary standards to consider are separation between colonies and property lines, residential structures, streets, water sources and flyway barriers.

Proposed Committee Action:

After hearing the staff presentation and discussion by the committee, staff would like direction on future regulations associated with beekeeping.

Background:

Lee's Summit's existing regulations on beekeeping are brief and restrictive with respect to some other communities in the metro. The current standards are as follows,

"It shall be unlawful to keep or harbor any bees in the City except in agricultural areas and four hundred (400) feet from inhabitants other than the owners thereof. Any beehive used or occupied by bees in violation of this section is hereby declared to be a nuisance. It shall be unlawful to keep or maintain any hive in the City except in areas four hundred (400) feet from inhabitants other than the owners thereof."

The dual restriction of a 400 foot buffer coupled with the agricultural areas precludes any sort of urban colony. In contrast, Overland Park's standard requires that a colony be no closer than 25 feet to a residential property line or 75 feet to the nearest residence. The Overland Park, Prairie Village, Olathe and Independence ordinances are attached to the packet for reference.

Staff will discuss pros and cons of urban colonies while highlighting the regulatory approach from other communities.

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