

SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL

Fast Facts

What: On October 13, 2009, the Council held a briefing regarding an ordinance to authorize beekeeping within the City subject to certain regulations intended to avoid problems that may otherwise be associated with beekeeping in populated areas. This item is scheduled for a public hearing on Thursday, November 5, 2009 during the formal portion of the Council meeting.

When: Salt Lake City Council, City and County Building, 451 South State Street, Room 315, 7:00 pm.

Points of Interest:

1) Hives on Residential Lots

- Currently, beekeeping is not addressed in City Code.
- No more than five stacks of five hive boxes will be permitted in the rear yard of any residential lot.
- On residential lots larger than one-half acre (21,780 square feet) or larger, the number may be increased to 10 stacks of five hive boxes.
- A person may not place hives on property owned by another individual without first obtaining written permission.
- Hives must be placed at least five feet from any property line and at least six inches above the ground. (This requirement may be waived in writing by the adjoining property owner.)
- Hives shall be placed on property so the general flight pattern of bees is in a direction which will limit bee contact with humans and domesticated animals on adjacent properties or areas of public access.
 - If a hive is within twenty-five feet from an adjacent property or public access area as measured from the nearest point on the hive to the property line, a flyway barrier of at least six feet in height must be maintained. When adjacent to a property line, the barrier shall consist of a solid wall, fence, dense vegetation, or a combination thereof, parallel to the property line which extends at least ten feet beyond the hive in each direction so that bees are forced to fly to an elevation of at least six feet above ground level over property lines in the vicinity of the hives.
- A water source must be available to the colony continuously between March 1 and October 31 of each year. The water shall be in a location that minimizes any nuisance created by bees seeking water on neighborhood property.

2) Hive Maintenance

- Hives must have removable frames which are kept in sound and usable condition.
- The African species of bees or any hybrid involving the African species is prohibited.
- Hives must be operated and maintained in accordance with the Utah Bee Inspection Act.

- Hives must be conspicuously marked with the owner's name, address, telephone number and state registration number.
- If there is a conflict between Salt Lake City's ordinance and the regulations adopted by the Salt Lake Valley Health Department, the most restrictive regulations will apply.
- Beekeepers shall ensure that no bee comb or other beekeeping equipment is left on the grounds of any apiary site. Upon removal from the hive, all supplies should be promptly disposed of or placed in a sealed container or within a building or other bee-proof enclosure.

3) Beekeeper Registration

- Beekeepers will be required to register with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food as provided in the Utah Bee Inspection Act set forth in Title 4, Chapter 11 of the Utah Code, as amended.

4) Permits and Fees

- Beekeepers will be required to pay the beekeeper license fee to the State which is a minimum of \$10 per year, and increases based on the number of hives being kept.
- As drafted the City ordinance does not propose a fee to cover the cost of regulation.

How you can become involved:

Online comments: www.slcgov.com/council/default.htm. Click on the "Submit Comments on a Specific Issue" on the right-hand column menu

***Mail: Salt Lake City Council Office *One copy is appreciated
451 South State Street, Room 304
PO Box 145476
Salt Lake City Utah 84114-5476***

Call: 24 Hour Comment Line – 801-535-7654

Fax: 801-535-7651

You may also attend the Public Hearing portion of the Council Meeting. Each individual will be provided two minutes to speak. Written comments are encouraged any time prior to the issue being scheduled for Council action.

Additional Information regarding the beekeeping ordinance discussion can be found online at www.slcgov.com/council/agendas.