



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

In the Year Two Thousand And Seventeen

AN ORDINANCE

RELATIVE TO BEEKEEPING

31- 509

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of New Bedford as follows:—

SECTION 1.

Chapter 4 of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by striking sections 4-5 and 4-5.1 in their entirety and inserting, in place thereof, the following new section:-

4-5. – Beekeeping restrictions.

4-5.1 - Definitions.

The following words shall have the following meanings:-

- (a) Beekeeper- a person who keeps and maintains honey bees in hives.
- (b) Colony – the entire honey bee family or social unit living together including the queen, workers and drones.
- (c) Flyway barrier – fencing, dense hedging or a combination of the two, which provides a shield or protective barrier from the direction in which the honey bees fly when approaching or leaving a hive.
- (d) Hive – a frame or structure used or employed as a domicile for honey bees.

4-5.2 – Requirements.

Hives and colonies may only be kept or maintained in the city pursuant to the following:-

- (a) Hives maintained on a residential property may only be located in a property zoned in a Residence A or Residence B district.
- (b) Hives shall only be maintained in the rear yard of a residential lot and there shall be at least a 15 foot radius of unbuilt upon land space contained within said residential lot surrounding each hive.

- (c) On any lot that does not have a fence on all sides of the of the rear yard, hives must be maintained 15 feet from any property line and the beekeeper must install a flyway barrier that is at least 6 feet in height and no further than 4 feet in front of the hive entrance.

4-5.3 – Restriction and penalties.

- (a) No person shall keep or maintain a hive or colony of honey bees that is not in compliance with the provisions of section 4-5 through 4-5.3.
- (b) Any person violating any of the provisions of section 4-5.2 through 4-5.3 shall be required to pay a fine of \$75.00 and remove the hive or colony and any equipment used in the keeping thereof from the premises within 48 hours.
- (c) Each violation shall constitute a separate and distinct offense. Every day any violation shall continue beyond the first 48 hours shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 2.

This ordinance shall take effect in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 43 of the General Laws.