

(First Published in the Columbus News Report \_\_\_\_\_, 2016)

ORDINANCE NO. 1370

**AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, KANSAS, ADDING ARTICLE 5, HONEY BEES, BEGINNING AT SECTION 2-501 OF CITY CODE CHAPTER II, ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR THE KEEPING OF HONEY BEES WITHIN THE CITY.**

WHEREAS, honey bees (*apis mellifera*) are of benefit to mankind, and to Kansas in particular, by providing agriculture, fruit and garden pollination services and by furnishing honey, and other useful products; and

WHEREAS, gentle strains of honey bees can be maintained within populated areas in reasonable densities without causing a nuisance and to avoid issues which might otherwise be associated with beekeeping if the bees are properly located and carefully managed, according to the rules hereby established for beekeeping within the City.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, KANSAS.

SECTION 1: That Article 5, HONEY BEES, shall be established and amends Code 2014 as follows:

2-501. HIVES, COLONIES AND APIARIES populated with honey bees are permitted within the City limits of Columbus, Kansas,

2-502. Definitions. As used in this article, the following words and terms shall have the meanings ascribed in this section:

- A. "Apiary" means the assembly of one or more colonies of bees at a single location.
- B. "Beekeeper" means a person who owns or has charge of one or more colonies of bees.
- C. "Beekeeping equipment" means anything used in the operation of an apiary, such as hive bodies, supers, frames, top and bottom boards and extractors.
- D. "Colony" means an aggregate of bees consisting principally of workers, but having, when perfect, one queen and at times drones, brood, combs, and honey.
- E. "Hive" means the receptacle inhabited by a colony that is manufactured for that purpose.
- F. "Honey bee" means all life stages of the common domestic honey bee (*Apis Mellifera*).

2-503. Standards of Practice.

- A. Hives must be registered with the Kansas Driftwatch.org.
- B. Honey bee colonies shall be kept in hives with removable frames, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition.
- C. Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available to the colony so long as colonies remain active outside of the hive.
- D. Two (2) hives, with only one (1) colony in each hive, are allowed on lots of five

thousand (5,000) square feet or larger. One (1) additional hive is permitted on each additional five thousand (5,000) square feet.

E. Hives shall only be located in the rear or side yard.

F. Hives that are located within twenty (20) feet of a property line shall be screened by a flyway barrier consisting of a six (6) foot solid fence, wall, dense vegetation, other barrier or a combination thereof. The screen shall extend at least twenty (20) feet in both directions from the point on the property line or lines where the hive is the closest to the property line. Vegetative screening shall be planted and maintained so as to form a continuous, unbroken, solid screen prior to the establishment of the hive(s).

G. Wild occurring bees, such as those residing in hollow trees whose honey is not harvested, are not subject to the rules and standards of practice listed above.

2-504. Compliance. A designated City official shall have the right to inspect any apiary or hive for the purpose of ensuring compliance with this ordinance between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. once annually upon prior notice to the owner of the apiary property, and more often upon complaint without prior notice.

A. Compliance with this ordinance shall not be a defense to a proceeding alleging that a given colony constitutes a nuisance, but such compliance may be offered as evidence of the beekeeper's efforts to abate any proven nuisance.

## SECTION 2: Enforcement


2-505. Registration. For the purpose of annual inspection by a designated City official, beekeepers shall register their hives, apiaries and beekeeping operations with the Columbus City Clerk and provide the following information:

- A. Beekeeper name
- B. Address where bee operation will be located
- C. Brief description of bee operation and property area.


SECTION 3: All ordinances, resolutions or policies or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby expressly repealed insofar as they conflict herewith.

SECTION 4: This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after passage and publication in the official city newspaper.

PASSED and APPROVED by the Columbus City Council this 3rd day of March, 2016.

  
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Dexter Opela  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Cherri Chancellor  
City Clerk

