

Informal Report to Mayor and Council



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| Citizen's Environmental Committee (CEC): Honey Bees Special Project |
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| City Council Meeting Date: 09/24/19 |
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ISSUE

As part of the Citizen's Environmental Committee Fiscal Year 2018 and 2019 Work Plan, the committee researched the topic of the benefits of honeybees as well as any impacts of those populations from mosquito spraying.

DISCUSSION

The Citizen's Environmental Committee, which is the City Council's environmental advisory group, received a charge from Council to research and provide recommendations on the benefits of honey bees to the City of Arlington and determine the impact (if any) of localized mosquito spraying on bee populations in the City. The CEC began the examination of mosquito spraying and honeybee populations in October 2017 (Fiscal 2018). After extensive research and presentations by vector control and honeybee experts throughout the fiscal year, the Committee determined that Arlington's current vector control program does not have an impact on current honeybee populations. Yet, in their research, the committee recognized the importance and benefit of honeybees and determined the need for some additional educational and protective efforts by the City. Given the number of presentation and extensive information available about honeybees, the CEC chose to continue the exploration of honeybee populations and benefits in their Fiscal 2019 work plan.

As a result of this effort, the CEC formulated eight (8) recommendations to submit to the director of Public Works and Transportation to have staff research the feasibility of their recommendations before submission to City Council as part of their fiscal year activities. At their May 15, 2019, meeting, after discussion with City Staff regarding possible implementation, the committee voted to modify two of the recommendations due to infeasibility. Staff modified those recommendations per CEC direction and the committee voted on the final recommendations at their June 19, 2019, meeting.

The eight (8) final recommendations of the committee are included in the CEC's report titled "Citizen's Environmental Committee Special Project: Honey Bee Populations in the City of Arlington", which is attached to this report.

ACTION

Unless directed otherwise, staff will move forward with the implementation of the recommendations of the Citizen's Environmental Committee.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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| Attached: | CEC Special Project: Honey Bee Populations |
| Under separate cover: | None |
| Available in the City Secretary's Office: | None |

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