Resolution No. 1

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKIE, OREGON, ON THE USE OF NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES TOXIC TO HONEY BEES AND OTHER POLLINATORS.

WHEREAS, the use of neonicotinoid pesticides is associated with lethal and sub-lethal effects on bees that impair bee foraging patterns, navigating and learning behavior, alter reproductive cycles, impair bee immune systems leading to increased susceptibility to pathogens and reduced colony survival; and

WHEREAS, the loss of pollinators is alarmingly high. Honey bees are facing annual declines of approximately 40%, greatly in excess of normal losses; and nearly 40 pollinator species are listed as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and

WHEREAS, recent research found that more than 1/4 of North American bumble bees are at risk of extinction. In Oregon, the imperiled species are: Bombus fervidus, B. caliginosus, B. suckleyi, B. morrisoni, B. occidentalis and B. franklini; and

WHEREAS, threats to pollinators concern the entire food system, where pollination services provided by honey bees and other essential pollinators account for one in every three bites of food, are responsible for the pollination of commodity crops such as almonds, apples, blueberries and many others, and contribute between $20-30 billion worth of services to U.S. agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the use of neonicotinoid pesticides has been shown to poison birds as well as aquatic organisms; and

WHEREAS, systemic insecticides, such as neonicotinoids, can give rise to chemical residues that persist in the environment, translocate through plants to remain in leaves, pollen and nectar, contaminate soil, impact beneficial soil microorganisms, and contaminate water resources; and

WHEREAS, federal regulatory approval for most neonicotinoid products was made through Conditional Registration, a process that put pesticides on the market without full toxicity testing; and

WHEREAS, residential and commercial use of neonicotinoid and other hazardous pesticides on home gardens, public parks, schools, and other local and municipal areas could pose risks to already compromised bees and other pollinators; and

WHEREAS, the use of hazardous pesticides in not necessary to create and maintain green lawns and landscapes, home or public gardens, or open spaces given the availability of viable alternative practices and products.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKIE, OREGON, THAT:

The City of Milwaukie will not procure or use products containing neonicotinoid or neonicotinoid-like insecticides, or plants treated with neonicotinoid or neonicotinoid-like insecticides. The city will purchase landscaping materials, including plants and seeds, that have
not been treated with neonicotinoids or other like systemic insecticides and hereby urges all businesses, homeowners and HOAs operating within the city to take steps to ensure no plants, seeds or products containing neonicotinoids are purchased, sold or used within the city, and to clearly and accurately label any plants or materials that have been treated with a neonicotinoid or neonicotinoid-like insecticide.

The City of Milwaukie will suspend the use of neonicotinoids and other bee-toxic systemic insecticides on all city properties.

The City of Milwaukie will require that commercial pest service providers performing services on behalf of the City provide landscape services that encourage pollinator populations and support pollinator services.

The City of Milwaukie will pursue creating more native pollinator habitat and planting more pollinator forage, including native host and forage plants in appropriate locations such as: rights-of-way, stormwater management ponds, areas that are currently turf grass, vacant land, and at City facilities.

The City of Milwaukie will review the current Vegetation Management Policy to consider amendments to make it more pollinator friendly.

The City of Milwaukie will encourage private developers to incorporate pollinator-friendly plantings into required landscaping.

The City of Milwaukie recognizes the importance of pollinators and their services, and will encourage and educate the North Clackamas School District, North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District, households, businesses, and the broader community about the action it has taken to encourage them to adopt a similar policy.

The Mayor and the Milwaukie City Council support the suspension of registration for the four most toxic neonicotinoids – clothianidin, dinofuran, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam - until the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency can ensure that their uses will not cause unacceptable harm.

Introduced and adopted by the City Council on __________.

This resolution is effective on __________.

_____________________________________________________
Mark Gamba, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____________________________________________________
Pat DuVal, City Recorder

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____________________________________________________
City Attorney