

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-04R**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER DESIGNATING THE CITY AS A FLORIDA BEE CITY USA AFFILIATE; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS; PROVIDING FOR A SAVINGS PROVISION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Article II, Section 7(a) of the *Constitution of the State of Florida* provides that:

It shall be the policy of the State to conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty. Adequate provision shall be made by law for the abatement of air and water pollution and of excessive and unnecessary noise and for the conservation and protection of natural resources.  
; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Webster understands and recognizes the importance and significance of protecting the natural resource and environment located within the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of BEE CITY USA is to galvanize communities to sustain pollinators, responsible for the reproduction of three-quarters of the world's plant species, by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free to nearly free of pesticides; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the tremendous diversity of wild native bees, along with the honey bees that were brought to the United States from Europe in the 1700s, the citizens of the United States are blessed with a very diverse diet rich in choices and abundant in fruits, nuts, vegetables and even dairy products; and

**WHEREAS**, one in every three bites of food citizens of the United States eat is the direct result of insect pollination; and

**WHEREAS**, bees and other pollinators have experienced significant and adverse population declines due to a combination of habitat loss, use of pesticides, and the spread of pests and diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, pollinator-friendly communities benefit local and regional economies through healthier ecosystems, increased vegetable and fruit crop yields, and increased demand for pollinator-friendly plant materials from local nurseries and growers; and

**WHEREAS**, ideal pollinator habitat provides: (1) a diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession throughout the growing season; (2) water for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly puddling; and (3) undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, unmowed fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for wild pollinators and is pesticide-free or has pesticide use carried out with least ill effects on pollinators; and

**WHEREAS**, ideal pollinator habitat: (1) is comprised of mostly, if not all, native species of annual and perennial forbs, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees in landscapes because many wild pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-adapted; and (2) includes, where possible, designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to educate the public and build awareness; and, (3) provides for safe and humane removal of honey bees when required.

**WHEREAS**, supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interactions among community stewards, backyard beekeepers, farmers, children of all ages, educators, Master Gardeners, local businesses, faith-based organizations, and nature related organizations and advocacy groups; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to enhance understanding among local government staff and the public about the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them, the City Council of the City of Webster supports and encourages pollinator habitat creation and enhancement on both public and private land; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Webster has found and determined that the City should be certified a BEE CITY USA community as the UF/IFAS Sumter County Master Gardeners have already joined Webster in Bloom in the Webster Community with native plants in front of our public buildings, businesses and parks; the Webster area is a region rich with farmers of varied produce, cattle ranching and the home of the Parson Brown Orange and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences/University of Florida is allied with the City to assist in an array of ways in support of the City's activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Webster has complied with all requirements and procedures of Florida law in processing and advertising this Resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the foregoing whereas clauses are hereby adopted as the legislative findings of the City Council.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ADOPTED AND RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1. Legislative Findings And Intent.**

The City Council of the City of Webster hereby adopts and incorporates into this Resolution the recitals (whereas clauses) to this Resolution.

**SECTION 2. City as BEE CITY USA Sponsor.**

The City Council of the City of Webster hereby finds, concludes and determines as follows

(a). The UF/IFAS Sumter County Master Gardeners is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA Sponsor.

(b). A Council Member of the City of Webster City Council will be designated as the BEE CITY USA liaison for the City.

(c). Facilitation of the Webster BEE CITY USA program is assigned to the UF/IFAS Master Gardener Sponsor.

(d). The Webster In Bloom Committee is authorized to and should:

(1). Annually celebrate National Pollinator Week (third full week of June) or some other appropriate occasion with educational events, pollinator habitat plantings or restoration, proclamations or promotions that showcase the City's commitment to enhancing pollinator health and habitat.

(2). Install and maintain at least one authorized BEE CITY USA sign in a prominent location, and create and maintain a webpage on the City's website which includes, at minimum, a copy of this Resolution, links to the national BEE CITY USA website, contact information for the local government's liaison, UF/IFAS Sumter County Master Gardener Sponsor, contact information for the Webster In Bloom Committee, and reports of the pollinator-friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous year. All of said actions and activities are government speech as determined to be appropriate and designated by the City Council.

(3). Develop and implement a program to create or expand pollinator- friendly habitat, which can include, but is not limited to:

(i). Identification and inventory of Webster's real property that can be enhanced with pollinator-friendly plantings.

(ii). Creation of a recommended locally native species list to include forbs, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees and a list of local supplies for those species.

(iii). Creation of a least toxic pesticide management plan.

(iv). Dissemination of informational and educational materials to the public.

(v). Tracking annual area of pollinator habitat created or enhanced by square footage or acreage.

(4). Establish, through the actions of the City Council, a policy in the Pollinator Habitat Plan of the City's *Comprehensive Plan* to acknowledge a commitment to the BEE CITY USA designation.

(5). Review the Pollinator Habitat Plan and other relevant documents to evaluate pesticide management policies and practices as they relate to pollinator conservation, identify appropriate locations for pollinator-friendly plantings, and consider other appropriate measures.

(6). After completing the first full year as a BEE CITY USA affiliate, each January, apply for renewal of the City's BEE CITY USA designation following the format provided by BEE CITY USA including, but not limited to, a report of the previous year's BEE CITY USA activities, and paying the renewal fee based on the City's population.

**SECTION 3. Future Implementing Actions.**

(a). The City Manager is assigned the responsibility to take any and all necessary administrative actions that may be desirable or necessary to implement the

provisions of this Resolution to include, but not be limited to, executing documents or procuring signatures for documents as appropriate.

(b). The City Attorney is instructed to assist the City Manager in the implementation of this Resolution.

**SECTION 4. Conflicts.**

All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with the provisions of this Resolution are hereby repealed and rescinded.

**SECTION 5. Savings.**

The prior actions of the City of Webster relating to natural resource protection and the City's actions relating thereto, as well as related matters and processes, are hereby ratified and affirmed.

**SECTION 6. Severability.**

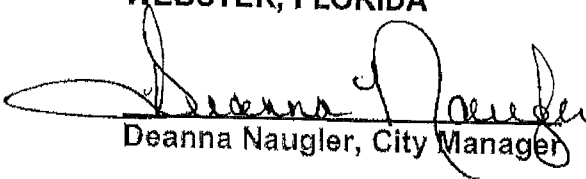
If any section, sentence, phrase, word, or portion of this Resolution is determined to be invalid, unlawful or unconstitutional, said determination shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force or effect of any other section, sentence, phrase, word, or portion of this Resolution not otherwise determined to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional.

**SECTION 7. Effective Date.**

This Resolution shall take immediate effect upon enactment.

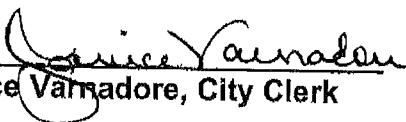
Passed and adopted by the City Council for the City of Webster, Florida on the 20 day of April, 2017.

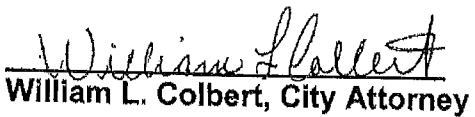
**CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
WEBSTER, FLORIDA**

  
Deanna Naugler, City Manager

**Approved as to form and Legality:**

**ATTEST:**

  
Janice Varnadore, City Clerk

  
William L. Colbert, City Attorney