

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