

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, BREADON, COLETTA,  
DURKAN, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, MURPHY, PEPÉN,  
SANTANA, WEBER, AND WORRELL



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### A TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE BOSTON ZONING CODE WITH RESPECT TO HONEY BEES

- WHEREAS,** Honey bees play a critical role in our food system, as they provide the pollination for over 85 different crops and contribute to 35% of global food production. Accordingly, without honey bees the agricultural system would collapse; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Honey bees enable the production of a wide array of foods, helping to stabilize and diversify ecosystems and further provide support for human habitats and high quality nutrients. Honey bees also contribute to livestock production through the pollination of forage plants such as alfalfa and clover; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Honey bees contribute to the greater biodiversity within urban cities by supporting and strengthening plant and tree growth through pollination, and are also indicator species, where they provide critical information on the health and habitat of our environment; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Honey bee populations have been on a steady decline, whereby city environments can provide alternative spaces for honey bees to maintain healthy habitats as they have access to protected areas, providing themselves with security while also generating a consistent diet and stronger biodiversity for its surroundings; *and*
- WHEREAS,** There are collective and individual environmental and health benefits to urban beekeeping, whereby bee pollination results in a decrease in pollution as their pollination contributes to keeping waterways clean, preventing soil erosion, encouraging oxygen production, and absorbing CO<sub>2</sub>; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Residents and businesses in Boston are already hosting bee hives on their rooftops and backyard as local interest in beekeeping has only increased during the pandemic; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**
- ORDERED:** That the Boston City Council, by and through Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, submits a petition to amend the text of the Boston Zoning Code.

Filed on: XXX,  
Text Amendment Application No. \_\_\_\_  
Boston City Council

TO THE BOSTON PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND ZONING  
COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BOSTON:

Boston City Council through and by Boston City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune petition to amend  
the text of the Boston Zoning Code as follows:

1. In Article 2, Section 2-1. - Meaning of Certain Words and Phrases

- a. Strike the existing definition of ‘Accessory Keeping of Animals’  
“Subject to the provisions of Article 10, the keeping of horses, cows,  
goats, poultry, pigeons, rabbits, bees, or similar animals other than pigs.”
- b. Replace with following definition of ‘Accessory Keeping of Animals’  
“Subject to the provisions of Article 10, the keeping of horses, cows,  
goats, poultry, pigeons, rabbits, or similar animals other than pigs.”

2. In Article 89 Urban Agriculture

- a. Strike Section 89-10 - Accessory Keeping of Honey Bees.
- b. In Section 89-2. Definitions
  - i. Strike 3.”Beekeeper”
  - ii. Strike 6. “Colony”
  - iii. Strike 9.”Hive”
  - iv. Strike 20. “Honey Bee”
  - v. Strike the phrase “or bees” from definition 30. “Urban Agriculture”

3. In Article 8 - Table A Use No. 76.

- a. Strike the word “bees” and “or more than three colonies of bees are kept on the lot at one  
time”

Petitioner: Boston City Council

By: Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune

Address: 1 City Hall Square, Suite 550, Boston, MA 02201

Telephone: 617-635-4376

Date: XXX