

From: Scott Thornton [mailto:sbthornton@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 9:47 AM
To: Heinrich, Janel; Firchow, Kevin; Rummel, Marsha; Verveer, Mike; Rhodes-Conway, Satya
Cc: Monks, Anne
Subject: Oppose Beekeeping Ordinance

February 8, 2012

Board of Public Health Members

Plan Commission Members

Alders Marsha Rummel, Mike Verveer, Satya Rhodes-Conway

RE: Opposition to Proposed Beekeeping Ordinance

I am opposed to an ordinance that would make it very difficult to keep bees in the Marquette neighborhood. Most of our lots are 33 feet wide and the restrictions from adjacent properties would make it very difficult if not impossible to keep bees on many of them. For some keeping bees currently it may mean they are suddenly out of compliance with an ordinance, which in my opinion is unnecessary.

I do not understand the need for the ordinance. It seems to be a solution looking for a problem. Who does this benefit? I suppose the city, since suddenly you have another source of income from licensing fees.

I have some concerns with the motives of the Dane County Beekeepers Association. I would like to think they are just trying to promote their hobby. However, why aren't they registered with the city as a lobbyist? They obviously are deeply involved in the writing of the ordinance. It was difficult for me to tell what you are going to be voting on, but it looks like a document entitled "DCBA FINAL Beekeeping Ordinance Proposal 2011-12-13".

It also troubles me that while this ordinance is making its way through the city process and causing concern and questions, the Dane County Beekeepers announce, with promotion from alders to neighborhood listservs, that they are having classes on beekeeping in February, March and April. "Cost: \$40, additional family members \$20 each."

Again, who is this ordinance benefiting?

Sincerely,

Scott B. Thornton

1104 Jenifer Street

Cc: Anne Monks