



# MEMORANDUM

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**Resolution 25-028, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Supporting the Efforts of the Homer Area Beekeepers Association to Promote “No Mow May” for the Protection of Pollinators. Davis/Erickson.**

**Item Type:** Backup Memorandum  
**Prepared For:** Mayor Lord and City Council  
**Date:** April 14, 2025  
**From:** Homer Area Beekeepers Association

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Homer has seen a continuing cooling pattern with increased rainfall and little to no sunshine which depletes the honeybees first feed of the spring: pollen and nectar.

Our main nectar and pollen flow is late June through July, a very short window for our bees to gather nectar. Dandelions are an abundant source of both nectar and pollen.

The American Beekeeping Federation has requested funding for critical research as honeybees are the backbone of the agriculture industry. Did you know that 1 out of every 3 bits of your food is direct result of the bees' pollination? The annual loss of beehives nationwide has increased to 70-80%.

Over the past two years, the BUZZ for NO MOW MAY has gained momentum in Homer and surrounding communities. Please join Homer Area Beekeepers Association (HABA) in supporting this nationwide movement of NO NOW MAY by displaying a poster or sign at your business/residence. Signs will be supplied by your local beekeeping organization, HABA.

NO MOW MAY offers several options to support our local pollinators:

1. You can forgo mowing in the month of May.
2. You can choose to “strip” mow which leaves a portion of your lawn “natural” this supplies a habitat in your yard enabling the bees to feast on dandelions, their first feed of the season.
3. Incorporate a few pollinator friendly plants in your yard/garden to attract pollinators. This offers you a firsthand view of the magnificent pollination process

HABA encourages you to join us in lending a helping hand to our local honeybees and giving them a leg up on their short yet busy season in Homer.

**Attachment:** Beekeeper Map

City of Homer  
491 East Pioneer Road  
Homer, Alaska 99603

March 11, 2025

The Honorable Mayor Rachel Lord and members of the City Council,

Dear Mayor and Council,

Homer Area Beekeepers Association (HABA) has been promoting a program to help the local honeybee's production by not mowing the dandelions in the month of May, NO MOW MAY.

There are more than 112 beehives owned by backyard beekeepers and one commercial beekeeper with 80 hives putting the total in the area at 192 hives in the Homer area.

May is a hard month for our honeybees, they do not have many pollen or nectar sources at that time of year. Dandelions are an abundant source of both.

We mapped the hives around Homer and attached that map to this request along with honeybee facts.

We respectfully request the City of Homer's support.

Thank you

Homer Area Beekeepers Association

Jeniffer Frazier, President

No Mow May Committee:

Cheryl Illg

Kim Perkins

Linda Gorman

Shawn Dickson

# Homer-area Bee Yards HABA hives

## Hives in Homer Area

- 2 hives - Joan S '24
- 5 hives - Jennifer F '24
- 1 hives: Mary Arndt '24
- 4 hives - Loc#2 R.T. -West 24
- 4 hives - Loc#1 R. T. - East
- 2 Hives -G.S.'24
- 3 hive - Cheryl Illg '24
- 3 hives - Shawn Dickson '24
- 0 hive - Don Tonkovich '24
- 2 hives - Joe Isenhour 24
- 1 hive - Ty Gates '24
- 2 hive - K. Perkins '24

