January 24, 2018

TO: The Honorable
   Phil Murphy, Governor
   Stephen Sweeney, Senate President
   Craig J. Coughlin, Speaker, NJ General Assembly
   N.J. Department of Agriculture
   Morris Somerset County Beekeepers Association
   Richard J. Codey, Senator
   Mila M. Jasey, Assemblywoman
   John F. McKeon, Assemblyman
   New Jersey League of Municipalities
   Morris County Municipalities

FROM: Elizabeth Osborne
       Borough Clerk

RE: Borough of Madison Resolution R 64-2018, opposing proposed beekeeping rules

Attached please find a certified copy of Resolution R 64-2018, adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Madison at the Council meeting of January 22, 2018, opposing the New Jersey Department of Agriculture’s proposed beekeeping regulations.
RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MADISON OPPOSING THE NEWLY PROPOSED BEEKEEPING RULES AND URGING THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CREATE RULES WITH STRAIGHTFORWARD REGULATIONS BASED ON FACTS SCIENCE AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR THE BEEKEEPERS AND BEE COLONIES IN NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the State Insect of the Garden State of New Jersey is the Honey Bee (apis mellifera); and

WHEREAS, it is scientifically well established that honey bees are of significant benefit to mankind, and to the Garden State of New Jersey in particular, by providing plant pollination, recreation for the beekeeper, honey, wax, and other beneficial hive products; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) has published new beekeeping regulations in the New Jersey Register, which are now open to public comment and must be submitted by January 19, 2018; as directed by P.L. 2015,c.076 (A1295 1R); and

WHEREAS, these new regulations include a section of Apiary Standards which states that bee colony density will be regulated as follows: on a residential lot of less than one-quarter acre where agriculture has not otherwise been determined as permitted, new (not already in existence) hives are in existence as of July 31, 2015, the hobbyist beekeeper may seek a waiver, on a residential lot of one-quarter acre to five acres, a person wishing to keep bees as a hobbyist may seek a waiver to keep two hives per lot; and

WHEREAS, these new regulation also include a section on Location of Hives, which requires that all hives be located at least 10 feet from a property line and at least 25 feet from any roadside, sidewalk, or path, and 85 feet from any public place, including playgrounds, sports fields, schools or churches, unless permission is granted for educational or research purposes, as well as establishing a “Flywall Barrier” at least six feet in height, consisting of a solid wall, fence, or dense vegetation parallel to the property line and extending 10 feet beyond the colony in each direction; and

WHEREAS, the new proposed beekeeping regulation were found to be detrimental to beekeeping in New Jersey by severely restricting and downsizing the breeding or keeping of honeybees in most municipalities. It is therefore recommended that the New Jersey Department of Agriculture consult for apicultural expertise with the New Jersey Beekeeping Association (NJBA) and its Academic Associates or Mid Atlantic Apiculture Research Extension Consortium or Successors (M.A.A.R.E.C).

WHEREAS, these new regulations ignore key best management practices for
beekeeping, and would be difficult for the vast majority of New Jersey municipalities to enforce.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Borough of Madison, in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, wishes to go on record with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture that it is opposed to the newly proposed beekeeping regulations, which would have a detrimental effect on beekeeping in Madison as well as throughout Morris County and the State of New Jersey, and urges the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities to work towards creating legislation with straightforward regulations based upon facts, science, and best management practices, in consultation with the NJBA and its Academic Associates which, in the aggregate, will protect both beekeepers and non-beekeepers within the State of New Jersey; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, the New Jersey League of Municipalities, the New Jersey Bee Association, the Morris Somerset County Beekeepers Association, all Morris County municipalities, and representative of the 27th legislative district, State Senate President and State Assembly Leader, urging them to oppose the adoption of the new beekeeping regulations as proposed by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

**ADOPTED AND APPROVED**
January 22, 2018

[Signature]
ROBERT H. CONLEY, Mayor

Attest:

[Signature]
ELIZABETH OSBORNE, Borough Clerk