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RESOLUTION NO. 210042

A resolution of the City of Gainesville, Florida, in support of being certified as a BEE CITY USA® affiliate; authorizing execution by the Mayor and City Clerk on behalf of the City of Gainesville; and providing an immediate effective date.

WHEREAS, the mission of BEE CITY USA is to galvanize communities to sustain pollinators, responsible for the reproduction of almost 90% of the world's flowering plant species, by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free to nearly free of pesticides; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the more than 3,600 species of native bees in the United States, along with introduced honey bees, the City of Gainesville has very diverse dietary choices rich in fruits, nuts, and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators have experienced population declines due to a combination of habitat loss, poor nutrition, pesticides (including insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides), parasites, diseases, and climate change; and

WHEREAS, pollinator-friendly communities can benefit local and regional economies through healthier ecosystems, increased vegetable and fruit crop yields, and increased demand for pollinator-friendly plant materials from local growers; and

WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat:

- (A) is comprised of mostly native wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees blooming in succession throughout the growing season to provide diverse and abundant nectar and pollen, since many wild pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-adapted;
- (B) is free to nearly free of pesticides, as many pesticides can harm pollinators and/or their habitat;
- (C) comprises undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, unmown fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering; and
- (D) provides connectivity between habitat areas to support pollinator movement and resilience; and

WHEREAS, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a long-term approach to maintaining healthy landscapes and facilities that minimizes risks to people and the environment by: identifying and removing the causes of pest problems rather than only attacking the symptoms (the pests); employing pests' natural enemies along with cultural, mechanical, and physical controls when prevention is not enough; and using pesticides only when no other method is feasible or effective; and

WHEREAS, supporting pollinators fosters broad-based community engagement in environmental awareness and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville should be certified a *BEE CITY USA* community; and

44 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA,**
45 in order to enhance understanding among local government staff and the public about the vital role
46 that pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them, the City of Gainesville chooses to
47 support and encourage healthy pollinator habitat creation and enhancement, resolving as follows:
48

49 **SECTION 1.** The City of Gainesville’s City Manager’s Office is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA
50 sponsor.
51

52 **SECTION 2.** The City Arborist of the Public Works Department within the City Manager’s Office is
53 designated as the BEE CITY USA Liaison.
54

55 1. Facilitation of the City of Gainesville’s BEE CITY USA program is assigned to the Gainesville Bee
56 City Committee, sponsored and facilitated by the Florida Wildflower Foundation. As the body
57 delegated authority to manage this committee, the Florida Wildflower Foundation will ensure
58 that the Gainesville Bee City Committee adheres to all applicable Sunshine Law requirements
59 as provided in Section 286.011, Florida Statutes.

60 2. The Florida Wildflower Foundation’s Gainesville Bee City Committee is authorized to and shall:

61 a. **Celebration:** Host at least one educational event or pollinator habitat planting or
62 restoration each year to showcase the City of Gainesville’s commitment to raising
63 awareness of pollinator conservation and expanding pollinator health and habitat.

64 b. **Publicity & Information:** Install and maintain at least one authorized BEE CITY USA street
65 sign in a prominent location, and create and maintain a webpage on the City of
66 Gainesville website which includes, at minimum a copy of this resolution and links to the
67 national BEE CITY USA website; contact information for your BEE CITY USA Liaison and
68 Committee; reports of the pollinator-friendly activities the community has
69 accomplished the previous year(s); and your recommended native plant species list and
70 integrated pest management plan (explained below).

71 c. **Habitat:** Develop and implement a program to create or expand pollinator-friendly
72 habitat on public and private land, which includes, but is not limited to, Identifying and
73 inventorying the City of Gainesville’s real property that can be enhanced with pollinator-
74 friendly plantings; creating a recommended locally native plant list to include
75 wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees and a list of local suppliers for those
76 species; and, tracking (by square footage and/or acreage) annual area of pollinator
77 habitat created or enhanced.

78 d. **Pollinator-Friendly Pest Management:** Create and adopt an integrated pest
79 management (IPM) plan designed to prevent pest problems, reduce pesticide use, and
80 expand the use of non-chemical pest management methods.

81 e. **Policy & Plans:** Establish, through the City of Gainesville, a policy in the ImagineGNV
82 Plan of the City of Gainesville’s Comprehensive Plan to acknowledge and commit to the
83 BEE CITY USA designation and review the ImagineGNV Plan and other relevant
84 documents to consider improvements to pest management policies and practices as

85 they relate to pollinator conservation, identify appropriate locations for pollinator-
86 friendly plantings, and consider other appropriate measures.

87 f. **Renewal:** After completing the first calendar year as a BEE CITY USA affiliate, each
88 February, apply for renewal of the City of Gainesville's BEE CITY USA designation
89 following the format provided by BEE CITY USA, including a report of the previous year's
90 BEE CITY USA activities, and paying the renewal fee based on the City of Gainesville's
91 population.

92
93 **SECTION 3.** This resolution will take effect immediately upon adoption.

94
95
96 PASSED and ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2022.

97
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100 _____
101 LAUREN POE
102 MAYOR

103
104 ATTEST:
105
106
107 _____
108 OMICHELE D. GAINEY
109 CITY CLERK