

Willig, Robert A.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 9, 2018 2:29 PM
To: ACRE Shared Mailbox
Subject: Re: Help with Honey Bee Farm pending borough ordinance will restrict Right to Farm.

Dear Willig ,

Thank you or your reply, to help you in your fact finding portion. State Representative Kate Harper has fashioned an ordinance to severely limit beekeeping within the HATFIELD borough

The proposed ordinance was drafted out of one initial complaint , then in the subsequent months to follow, the complainant as able to coerce 3 other neighbors to file a complaint , at the July Council meeting. We are talking about three bee stings in 25 years which prompted the drafting of this ordinance. Solicitor Harper has specifically listed this proposed ordinance under a police power with what we perceive is to prevent grandfathering . This under the false premise of community health and safety as a result of three bee stings and 25 years. Not surprisingly it turns out the neighbors who were stung we're living next to a huge yellow jacket nest under a porch , which they called my husband to take care of at no cost to any of them. Yellow jackets are wasps and they take up residence wherever they feel like it ,honey bees on the other hand , are kept under the care , custody and control in most cases by humans , few do live high up in the hollow of a tree . Honey bees are gentle , nonaggressive insects , yet the honeybees are being blamed for something they did not do , We sent a request to Josh Shapiro to assist us under right to farm Honey Bees are responsible for pollinating most of the crops within Pennsylvania , limiting them and putting in place unrealistic laws , will only cause further detrimental harm , to an already struggling critical pollinator in Pa. our overwinter percentage last year was 90% and in order to stay with pa best practices. Hive division turned 8 hives into 14. We wish to be able to divide hives in the spring for distribution to new beekeepers and also work with Penn state and MCBA in fighting Varroa mites. I have found the feral bees are more resistant to the mites. My saled for the next year will meet or exceed the Right to Farm requirements.of 10k of which 5k from the bee farm. The county has fixed the map to reflect our actual lot size of 8400 sf.

The Honey Bees cannot speak for themselves , we as caretakers of them must do it for them! We are the only beekeepers in Hatfield Borough , as such the drafting of this ordinance is somewhat prejudicial and portions of this proposed ordinance are a direct violation of our fourth and fifth amendment rights.

Please call me to discuss further.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 9, 2018, at 1:38 PM, ACRE Shared Mailbox <acre@attorneygeneral.gov> wrote:

[REDACTED]
Thank you for your inquiry. I will open up an ACRE case on this matter. When would be a good time to call you to discuss?

Sincerely

Robert A. Willig
Senior Deputy Attorney General

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 6, 2018 9:52 PM
To: ACRE Shared Mailbox <acre@attorneygeneral.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Help with Honey Bee Farm pending borough ordinance will restrict Right to Farm.

Dear Attorney General Shapiro ,

We are looking for your assistance for having our honey bee farm to be included under Pa Right to Farm act. We have had our bees for 25 years and now the borough of HATFIELD wants to enact an ordinance to restrict our hives. We had an overwinter success rate of 90% last year and we have made real progress on combatting Varroa with Oxalic Acid treatment and a significant increase in Bee to bee hygiene. The ordinance may come up for vote on 10-17. I can email a copy of the ordinance .

Please your help is needed to save the honey bees.

Sincerely ,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

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Willig, Robert A.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 6, 2018 10:01 PM
To: ACRE Shared Mailbox
Subject: Proposed Ordinance for HATFIELD Boro. See prior email.
Attachments: Hatfield Borough Beekeeping ordinance draftDOCX.pdf; ATT00001.txt

Below is the proposed ordinance as per my prior email. Your help is needed to prevent its passage. We have had honeybees for 25 years and now the borough would like to enact an ordinance to restrict be keeping all at the complaint of one person who could coerced several other neighbors to join her which that was only in June and an ordinance is on the table. We hired an attorney but sincerely need your help to stop this action. See prior email.

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Please your help is needed to save the honey bees.

Sincerely ,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone