



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, honey bees and native insects are important as pollinators for a third of the food we eat and honey bees are vital in production of over 90 crops grown across the nation, many of which are in Iowa. Honey bees contribute to a healthy Iowa environment by assuring availability of fruits, vegetables, nuts, and flowers for wildlife and all Iowans; and

WHEREAS, Iowa's 45,000 or more honey bee hives produce about 4 million pounds of honey valued at over \$8 million and honey bees provide an estimated \$92 million economic value to Iowa crops from their pollination; and

WHEREAS, Iowa has over 4,500 beekeepers representing hobbyists, sideliners as part time businesses, and full-time commercial beekeepers. Hobby beekeepers have as few as one hive to commercial operations with thousands of hives; and

WHEREAS, traditionally beekeeping occurred in rural areas of Iowa. Now, beekeeping increasingly occurs in urban areas with the rising interest of hobby beekeepers for keeping beehives in Iowa cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, honey bees face serious threats from invasive pests, decreasing bee friendly forage, variable climate and increasing pesticide and herbicide pressure; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mark E. Holm, Mayor of the City of Ankeny, do hereby proclaim March 16, 2023 as

ANKENY IOWA HONEY BEE DAY

and encourage all residents and visitors to join in observing this day and focusing on the importance of honey bees to our local economy, to enjoy the honey and other products of honey bees, to recognize the honey bees' role in maintaining our Iowa environment, and to assist in reducing the threats to honey bee survival in our state.

DATED AND SIGNED THIS 16TH DAY OF MARCH, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark E. Holm", written over a horizontal line.

Mark E. Holm, Ankeny Mayor

