

CITY OF SEATTLE
RESOLUTION 31548

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3 A RESOLUTION concerning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides by the City of Seattle;
4 supporting a national moratorium on neonicotinoids, urging the White House Task Force on
5 Pollinator Health to recommend such a moratorium, urging the US Environmental Protection
6 Agency to institute such a moratorium, and urging the US Congress to revive legislation to enact
7 such a moratorium; and urging retailers operating within the City of Seattle to ensure that no
8 plants, seeds or products containing neonicotinoids are offered for sale.

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10 WHEREAS, bees and other insect pollinators are under great environmental stress, experiencing
11 die-offs and diminishing populations, and putting major sectors of agriculture and food
12 security at risk; and

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14 WHEREAS, the Food Action Plan of the City of Seattle commits the City to use its purchasing
15 and contracting power, and to support programs, policies and projects, to promote local,
16 sustainably produced food, and access to healthy food for all residents; and

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18 WHEREAS, agriculture is among the largest sectors of the economy of the State of Washington,
19 accounting for over 49 billion dollars in total revenue and 13 percent of the state's
20 economy; and

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22 WHEREAS, pollinators are critical to key Washington crops, such as tree fruit; over one-third of
23 all agricultural production worldwide is dependent on pollinators; and

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25 WHEREAS, the United States Geological Survey has highlighted the growing use of
26 neonicotinoids in the United States, and found significant neonicotinoid contamination in our
27 nation's waters; and

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29 WHEREAS, Neonicotinoids, one of the most widely used *classes of* insecticides in the world,
30 are systemic, persistent neurotoxins that spread throughout a treated plant including to the pollen
31 that is gathered by pollinators; and

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33 WHEREAS, An independent review of more than 800 scientific studies concluded that
34 neonicotinoids are causing significant damage to a wide range of beneficial invertebrate species
35 and are a key factor in the decline of bees; and

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37 WHEREAS, responding to scientific concern over the impact of neonicotinoids on pollinators,
38 the European Union in 2013 instituted a two-year moratorium on use of neonicotinoids,
39 while cities, including Spokane, WA, Eugene, OR, and Sherwood, MN, have instituted
40 bans against municipal use; and



1 WHEREAS, United States House of Representatives Bill 2692, the “Save America’s Pollinators
Act” of 2013, is currently pending in committee; and

2 WHEREAS, in August 2014 the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced plans to phase out use
3 of neonicotinoids on National Wildlife Refuges across the country, and the US
4 Geological Survey released information on the pervasive appearance of neonicotinoids in
aquatic environments throughout the Midwest; and

5 WHEREAS, in July 2014 President Obama directed the White House Task Force on Pollinator
6 Health to publish within 180 days a strategy to stop the decline of pollinators and help
7 restore populations to healthy levels; and

8 WHEREAS, the US Environmental Protection Agency has allowed registration, sale and use of
9 neonicotinoids while it carries out an assessment, and is not scheduled to issue its report
until 2018; and

10 WHEREAS, the City’s Interdepartmental Team on Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which
11 includes representatives from Seattle Department of Transportation, Seattle City Light,
12 Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle Center, Finance and Administrative Services, Seattle
Department of Parks and Recreation and Seattle Public Libraries, has recommended
13 eliminating the use of neonicotinoids at City facilities; NOW, THEREFORE,

14 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**
15 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

16 Section 1. The City of Seattle will not purchase or use any neonicotinoid pesticides for any
17 purpose and will seek to use only pollinator-friendly methods of weed and pest control on any City-
18 owned or operated land.
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21 Section 2. The Mayor and the Seattle City Council supports a national moratorium on the
22 sale and use of neonicotinoids.
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1 Section 3. The Mayor and the Seattle City Council strongly urges the US House of
2 Representatives to pass the Save America's Pollinators Act (H.R. 2692).

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4 Section 4. The Mayor and Seattle City Council strongly urges the Environmental
5 Protection Agency (EPA) to suspend the registration of imidacloprid, clothianidin,
6 thiamethoxam, dinotafuran and any other neonicotinoids until the EPA can complete its
7 environmental assessments.
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10 Section 5. The Mayor and the Seattle City Council strongly urges the White House Task
11 Force on Pollinator Health to recommend or institute an immediate moratorium on all uses of
12 neonicotinoids.
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15 Section 6. The Mayor and Seattle City Council strongly urges businesses operating
16 within the City of Seattle to take immediate steps to ensure no plants, seeds, or products
17 containing neonicotinoids are purchased, sold, or used within the City of Seattle.
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19 Adopted by the City Council the 22nd day of September, 2014, and signed
20 by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 22nd day
21 of September, 2014.
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23 _____
24 President _____ of the City Council
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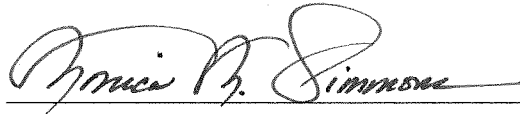


1 THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

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4 Edward B. Murray, Mayor

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7 Filed by me this 23rd day of September, 2014.

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10 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

11 (Seal)

