

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, honey bees and native insects are important as pollinators for a third of the food we eat. 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 the 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 small businesses and full time commercial beekeepers. Beekeepers have as few as 1-2 hives in a single apiary to a hundred apiaries with thousands of hives of individual commercial operations; and

WHEREAS, traditionally, beekeeping occurred in rural areas of Iowa. Now bee hives increasingly are in urban areas with the rising interest of hobby beekeepers that keep honey bees in Iowa cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, honey bees face serious threats from invasive pests and disease, decreasing bee friendly habitat, variable climate and pesticide and herbicide pressure:

THEREFORE, I, Dean Andrews, mayor of Charles City, do hereby proclaim March 30, 2022 as

IOWA HONEY BEE DAY

and encourage all citizens, residents and visitors to join in observing this day and focusing on the importance of honey bees to our state economy, to enjoy the honey and other products of the hive, 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.
