



# CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

## RESOLUTION NO. 2-2023

**RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2023 AND THEREAFTER EACH MONTH OF APRIL, AS "NO MOW MONTH", TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO VOLUNTARILY DELAY LAWN CARE AND MOWING TO SUPPORT POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY HABITAT DURING A CRITICAL PERIOD OF POLLINATOR EMERGENCE AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

***Sponsored by Councilmember James Kole***

**WHEREAS**, the City of Laurel is a BEE CITY USA affiliate, Laurel and the City's Bee City USA sub-committee, are encouraged to develop and implement a program to create or expand pollinator-friendly habitat(s) on public and private land, to adopt sustainable pollinator-friendly land management practices; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is in a unique position to significantly increase pollinator-friendly habitat(s) by encouraging pollinator-friendly lawn-care practices and by encouraging its residents to take direct and meaningful action on private properties; and

**WHEREAS**, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat(s) comprised of mostly native wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees blooming in succession throughout the growing season, undisturbed spaces including leaf and brush piles, un-mown fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood for nesting and overwintering; is free or nearly free of pesticides, herbicides and fungicides, comprises and provides connectivity between habitat areas to support pollinator movement and resilience; and

**WHEREAS**, the formative period for establishment of pollinator and other insect species, and the many songbirds and other urban wildlife species that depend upon them, occurs in late spring and early summer when they emerge from dormancy and require flowering plants as crucial foraging habitats, and these opportunities are dramatically reduced with early spring leaf-litter removal and grass-mowing; and

**WHEREAS**, Bee City USA has encouraged local governments to adopt "No Mow Month" to support pollinator-friendly habitat(s) during early spring months, which is a critical period of pollinator emergence; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council have determined that encouraging residents to support "No Mow Month" in April, starting in 2023 and continuing each April thereafter on private property is in the public interest; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland that the City of Laurel hereby recognizes "No Mow Month" observed in April of each proceeding year to actively promote and educate the community about the critical period of pollinator emergence, generation of crucial pollinator-supporting habitat(s) and early spring foraging opportunities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that for the duration of the month of April, the City of Laurel encourages residents as part of a pilot program to voluntarily delay homeowner lawn-care and mowing practices starting April 1 to April 30 each year, starting in 2023, for the purpose of allowing pollinator species to emerge and early flowering grasses and forbs to establish; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor may direct the Department of the Fire Marshal and Permit Services to relax Code Enforcement inspections and enforcement actions related to high grass and weeds during the month of April to achieve the goal of allowing pollinator species to emerge and early flowering grasses and forbs to establish in the City of Laurel; and

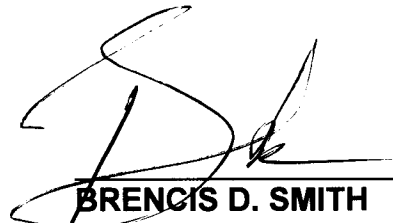
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Administration shall develop a policy to support this initiative and to implement a program to create pollinator-friendly habitat(s) on public and private land, to adopt sustainable pollinator-friendly land management practices in the City.

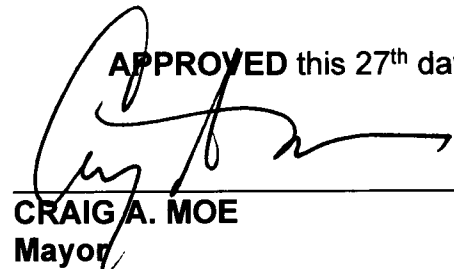
**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

**ADOPTED** this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023.

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**SARA A. GREEN, CMC**  
Clerk to the City Council

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**BRENCIS D. SMITH**  
President of the City Council

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**CRAIG A. MOE**  
Mayor

**APPROVED** this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023.