

[REDACTED]
Penticton BC V2A 8 X9
May 22, 2024

RDOS
Planning Department: Variances
101 Martin St.
Penticton, BC V2A 5J9

Dear Sir or Madam:

RE: Bylaw Enforcement Case No. 4519, Property Folio 07324.120

We are responding to an attached copy of the letter from Tim Donegan Of RDOS Bylaw Enforcement.

First of all, the RDOS normal process is to act upon receiving **two complaints** about any bylaw infraction. In this case, Tim confirmed that **only ONE complaint** has been received [REDACTED]

Tim said this was because there may be an allergy concern about bee stings [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Homeowner Deborah Webb has her own allergic reactions to stings and has both these medications on hand at our home. Deborah has never been stung by the honeybees, only paper wasps or ground dwelling wasps. Deborah has picked flowers from a cluster of lavender with honeybees on several nearby stalks, and the honeybees ignored her presence. Honeybees are gentle, hard-working creatures.

Second, in addition to the honeybees on our property, there are over 38 kinds of wild bees in the Okanagan Valley as well as wasps, hornets, and yellow jackets. ALL of these creatures can cause allergic reactions to their stings. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Our honeybees are not the only issue here.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] One cannot leash, lasso or otherwise control honeybees! [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Fourth, we have had these honeybees in our yard for **over 14 years**. Not one of our neighbours has ever complained about them. Our neighbour to the north, [REDACTED] told me he welcomes the honeybees to

his yard as he is starting to grow fruit trees and wants these pollinators to help his trees bear fruit. The back of his flag lot abuts our gardens. Our neighbours [REDACTED] have a grape arbour and fruit trees, with four dogs playing outside, and also welcome our honeybees to their yard. The previous owners [REDACTED] of the same property were also very happy to have honeybees to pollinate their garden crops.

Our own yard has raspberry patches, several fruit trees and a large vegetable garden that feeds us. In addition, we have many pollinator friendly flowering plants and shrubs. We do not use any pesticides or herbicides on our property.

[REDACTED]

Fifth, the RDOS bylaw specifies that bee hives are to be kept in a back yard. As you can see in the attached aerial photo, our back yard is very narrow. The distance from the proposed back yard siting for the hives labelled **PBH** to reach [REDACTED] back yard is almost exactly the same distance from the current siting of the hives in our front yard labelled **CBH**. This will not solve the issue with honeybees in [REDACTED] yard. That backyard location will also complicate for us the regular servicing of the honeybees and their annual removal in the spring to pollinate orchards from Osoyoos to Summerland. Kevin Dunn of Okanagan Wildbrush Honey is our Bee Master. Our colony of hives is isolated from any other colony ensuring a core of surviving bees should there be colony collapses elsewhere. We need to protect all our pollinators, and secure greater local food production. These are working honeybees!

Sixth, we are apparently limited to having beehives by the size of our property. Our property calculates to 95.5% of the minimum acreage required for greater than two hives of honeybees.

We therefore are formally applying for a variance to the RDOS Bylaw Section 6.6 regarding placement of the hives to permit the hives to remain in their current location AND to permit us to continue to have our current unlimited set of beehives on site.

Thank you for considering our request.

Respectfully submitted,

[REDACTED]

Deborah Webb Mark Webb

8
DRW