

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF VENICE, FLORIDA, ENCOURAGING THE NON-USE OF FERTILIZERS YEAR ROUND; DIRECTING STAFF TO DEVELOP AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, water quality is critical to the City of Venice's environmental, economic, and recreational prosperity and to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City; and

WHEREAS, the current red tide bloom and other algae and water related problems have heightened community concerns about water quality; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to develop a stronger knowledge of the connection between activities in yards, streets, and stormwater systems and natural water bodies among all those who live, work and recreate in the City; and

WHEREAS, nutrients are essential elements for plant growth and commonly used in various forms as a fertilizer for lawns and landscape application; and

WHEREAS, leaching and runoff of nutrients from improper or excess fertilization practices can contribute to nitrogen and phosphorus pollution of the area's water resources; and

WHEREAS, the City has made the Sarasota County Fertilizer and Landscape Management Code ("Fertilizer Code") applicable within the City; and

WHEREAS, the Fertilizer Code prohibits the application of fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus to turf and/or landscape plants from June 1 through September 30; and

WHEREAS, Florida law partially preempts local governments from regulating the use of fertilizers; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that a voluntary expansion of the prohibition on the application of fertilizers to year-round would improve water quality; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution is part of a mutli-pronged effort by the City to improve water quality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VENICE, FLORIDA, as follows:

SECTION 1. The above Whereas clauses are ratified and confirmed as true and correct.

SECTION 2. The City Council hereby encourages all persons, businesses, associations, clubs, and/or organizations discontinue, year-round, the application of any fertilizer, including pesticide/fertilizer mixtures, containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus to turf, sod, lawns, trees, shrubs, groundcover, or any other landscape plant.

SECTION 3. The City Council hereby directs staff to develop an educational program for the residents, businesses, associations, clubs, and organizations of the City regarding the effects of fertilizer on water quality, methods to reduce fertilizer usage and the proper application and usage of fertilizer.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall take effect upon adoption, as provided by law.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VENICE, FLORIDA, AT A MEETING HELD ON THE 11TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2018.

John W. Holic, Mayor, City of Venice

ATTEST:

Lori Stelzer, MMC, City Clerk

I, Lori Stelzer, MMC, City Clerk of the City of Venice, Florida, a municipal corporation in Sarasota County, Florida, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full and complete, true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Venice, Florida, at a meeting thereof duly convened and held on the 11th day of September 2018, a quorum being present.

WITNESS my hand and official seal of said City this 11th day of September 2018.

Lori Stelzer, MMC, City Clerk

(S E A L)

Approved as to form:

Kelly Fernandez, City Attorney