

BEE SAFE ALLIANCE

Advocates for safe and responsible beekeeping in Los Angeles

10/26/15

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
222 N. Spring St., Room 333
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Tel: 213-473-3100



URGENT: FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION PLEASE RETURN ORDINANCE TO COUNCIL FOR REVISIONS

October 23, 2015

Mayor Eric Garcetti
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 92001

RE: Council File 12-0785

Dear Honorable Mayor Garcetti,

Those of us who have been critics of the urban beekeeping ordinance wish to make it clear that **we do not oppose urban beekeeping when done responsibly under safe conditions and locations.**

While criticisms of the ordinance went unaddressed all year, a **"last ditch effort" amendment was adopted by the Council to address one area of strong concern - responding to those who contend there is not adequate City oversight** of or mechanisms to evaluate this so-called pilot program (with a citywide rollout!). That amending motion (ITEM 22-A attached) requests a report after 6 months (inadequate time frame for meaningful evaluation) containing the following:

- The number of beekeeping permits granted
- Number and sufficiency of personnel carrying out inspections
- Any geographies with a particularly high density of hives
- Any incidents that have occurred as a result of hives being housed in residential areas

This, like the proposed Ordinance, is another well-intentioned action by Council but hastily conceived and impossible to implement, thus continuing to ignore health and safety concerns.

The City's ordinance relies upon the staff of the LA County Agricultural Commissioner to register beekeepers (even though that office was not consulted in the crafting of the ordinance). However, due to requirements of the California State Agricultural Code, the County's list of beekeepers is confidential; unless the City assumes responsibility for registration, they will not have access to the list of beekeepers. It would seem logical to have had discussions with the County to determine the relationship between the City and County prior to the ordinance's adoption.

The California Food and Agricultural Code Section 29041 states in part: (Full section attached)

"Notwithstanding the California Public Records Act... any information provided in accordance with this article"... "or Section 29070 shall be held confidential, and shall not be disclosed to any person or governmental agency, other than the department or a county department of agriculture..."

In summary,

1. The Building and Safety Department will not be able to report on the location or geographical density concentrations of any hives registered in the City because the names and locations in the County application are confidential.

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2015 OCT 26 PM 2:01
BY: ELLIOTT DEPUTY
915

2. The Building and Safety Department will not be able to report on number and sufficiency of personnel needed because they will not be able to locate the hives or number and their distances apart from each other in regards to travel time to inspect them.
3. Incidents of hives being located in residential areas will not be accurate because applicants will not be required to tell neighbors in vicinity of the bees located on their property. Once registered with the County, beekeepers are free to move their hives to alternate/additional locations without additional reporting requirements.
4. Therefore, a complaint about any bee activity by the neighbor will be very difficult to prove since there will be no way for the neighbor to identify possible sources of local bee problems.

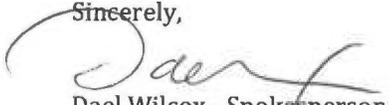
In addition to the shortcoming in defining and evaluating any impacts of the ordinance (both positive and negative), there still remains the huge issue of workplace safety for first responders, DWP personnel and others whose jobs take them onto private property. The request for a signage provision and/or the rationale against it remains unanswered.

It has been erroneously reported in the press that this ordinance will overturn a 136 year old ban on backyard beekeeping in Los Angeles. This misguided information about an existing ban is also disturbing as we have not found any documentation to support this.

Neither the City Attorney or Dept. of Building and Safety have been able to provide any Code references and/or a stated penalty for keeping bees in residential areas. Even the proponents have written in public documents that "(it) is not prohibited....in the City."

We respectfully ask you to refrain from signing this proposed Ordinance that has ridden a wave of enthusiastic well-intentioned but dangerously naïve public sentiment to arrive on your desk.

Sincerely,



Dael Wilcox - Spokesperson
Bee Safe Alliance

951-534-4727

California Food and Agricultural Code Section 29041

"Notwithstanding the California Public Records Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code), any information provided in accordance with this article"... (Article 4. Registration & Identification of Apiaries)... "or Section 29070 shall be held confidential, and shall not be disclosed to any person or governmental agency, other than the department or a county department of agriculture. The information shall also be considered privileged under the provisions of Sections 1040 and 1060 of the Evidence Code, with the exception of the location of apiaries for disclosure to pesticide applicators pursuant to Section 29101."

ITEM No. 22 - A

MOTION

I MOVE that the matter of the Categorical Exemption, Communication from City Attorney and Ordinance First Consideration relative to establishing new regulations for backyard beekeeping on single-family residential zoned properties, Item No. 22 on today's Council Agenda (CF 12-0785), **BE AMENDED** to instruct the Building and Safety Department in consultation with the Animal Services Department and with the assistance of any other appropriate departments or agencies, to provide a status report to the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee six-months after the effective date of this ordinance including but not limited to the following information: the number of beekeeping permits granted, number and sufficiency of personnel carrying out inspections, any geographies with a particularly high density of hives, and any incidents that have occurred as a result of hives being housed in residential areas.

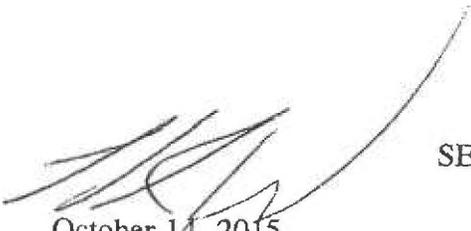
PRESENTED BY:


DAVID RYU

Councilman, 4th District

SECONDED BY:




October 14, 2015

ak

ORIGINAL

Petitioning Los Angeles City Council

Legalize Urban Beekeeping in Los Angeles — Signatures collected by Change.org

Council File: 12-0785 Beekeeping / Single Family Residential (R1) Zones

<http://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=12-0785>

I am writing to ask that you make the legalization of beekeeping and the establishment of a hum Bees are an essential part of our food system. According to the USDA, bees are responsible for tl gardeners and urban farmers. As you may be aware, honeybees worldwide are in crisis, falling p beekeeping a serious food security issue.

Urban beekeeping has been gaining widespread attention especially since the President and Firs and San Francisco, New York, Seattle, Portland, Denver, Chicago and most recently Santa Monic beekeeping.

With all that in mind, I strongly urge you to:

1. Support efforts to: develop a new ordinance which will legalize beekeeping within R1 districts of Los Angeles that will operate as a secure, temporary holding area for feral honeybee colonies
2. Change Los Angeles' current response to feral honeybee swarms (which is extermination), and Thank you for taking the time to consider this globally important issue.

850 total
193 Los Angeles (Listed)
53 outside U.S.
Rest: other states (than CA)

Name	City	State	Zip	Country	SignedOn	Comment
John Fedorowicz	Los Angeles	CA	90066	United States	1/6/12	Without bees we all c Pasadena won't let m
Kristen Ridley	Pasadena	CA	91103	United States	1/6/12	of these.
john pierce	Los Angeles	CA	90066	United States	1/6/12	Every little bit helps preserve bees.
Michael Metz	Port Washington	WI	53074	United States	1/6/12	I am urban beekeeper in Wisconsin. And I am having a similar fight here.
S. Lyon	Los Angeles	CA	90019	United States	1/6/12	LA is the perfect place for urban gardeners to provide homes to honeybees. We are a verdant city with tons of microclimates and plant communities, and the more honeybees we can nurture in our beautiful city the more we are contributing to safe food supplies and biodiversity everywhere!
daniel frommer	los angeles	CA	90069	United States	1/6/12	I love bees, honey and want to help save the bees! Gathering that bees are imperative to our survival, whatever issues are of concern by people against urban
Lori Bennett	Los Angeles	CA	90005	United States	1/6/12	beekeeping, let them be brought to a table for mediation so we can enjoy comfortable communities. We do urban beekeeping legally in Seattle, and it has been a great benefit for agriculture, communities, and health
B R	SEATTLE	WA	98112	United States	1/6/12	of the honeybees.
Andrew Heugel	Brewster	NY	10509	United States	1/7/12	Bees are essential for many crops and beekeeping should be legal everywhere.
Daniel Busby	San Marino	CA	91108	United States	1/7/12	I'd like to get into beekeeping myself!
susan rudnicki	manhattan Beach	CA	90266	United States	1/7/12	Urban bees are the sanctuary of the bee world and must be protected and assisted to grow. Because without proliferation of stable colonies in environments that can sustain them year round we are just playing Russian Roulette with our own Mother.
Thomas Lewis	Los Angeles	CA	90004	United States	1/7/12	

Shawn Longino	Los Angeles	CA	90042	United States	4/16/15	we need bees in every habitat they can possibly exist in. As the son of a farmer and a bee-keeper, I KNOW how important bees are to our lives - I don't believe we can live without them!
Art Edson	Grand Rapids	MI	49503	United States	4/16/15	We need bees.
Conor Fitzpatrick	Los Angeles	CA	90065	United States	4/16/15	
erin Ziering	Los Angeles	CA	90046	United States	4/16/15	Bees = life
Robert Rosiles	San Francisco	CA	94109	United States	4/16/15	because we need to protect our wildlife and ensure all species survival.

850 total
193 Los Angeles (Listed)
53 outside U.S.
Rest: other states (Than CA)

BEE SAFE ALLIANCE

Advocates for safe and responsible beekeeping in Los Angeles



URGENT: FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION PLEASE RETURN ORDINANCE TO COUNCIL FOR REVISIONS

SIGNATURES OF THOSE CONCERNED

October 26, 2015

10/26/15

Mayor Eric Garcetti
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 92001

City of Los Angeles
City Clerk's Office, Room 213
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 475-3100

RE: Council File 12-0785

Dear Honorable Mayor Garcetti,

Please find attached 215 original signatures from those who responded to or solicitation for support in asking you TODAY, TO PLEASE MAKE BEE KEEPING SAFER THAN PROPOSED IN THE ORDINANCE ON YOUR DESK.

People were eager to sign the Caution Tape after explaining the need for safer regulations and showing the current proposed Ordinance and explain the need for the following: (see attached note displayed on paper for those to see)

- Hive size limits
- Proper Signage
- Distance from Sensitive Areas
- "Opt Out" feature for allergic people and children

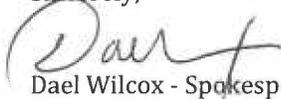
I believe the signatures attached reflects the true sentiment shown in the Community when given a chance to discuss the issues. These were greatly concerned of the lack of serious safety shown in the current Ordinance. Some were reluctant to sign until they studied it out. Some did not want to sign because they did not want to get involved. One person changed his mind and crossed out his signature saying he didn't want more politics. We welcomed and appreciated all comments.

These 215 signatures were obtained in the MarVista and Venice areas in less than 5 hrs. Please find a sample of the photos taken that day of those supporting the additional change needed.

On the other hand, Please find the first and last page of the Ordinance proponent, Honey Love, spanning over 3 years, yet submitting only 193 Los Angeles claimed signatures (see breakdown).

We ask you again, to please VETO the proposed Ordinance and send it back to City Council to make the necessary changes. If you have signed it already, please do not forward it to the clerk for publishing. If the City Clerk has it, please ask to not have it published.

Sincerely,



Dael Wilcox - Spokesperson
Bee Safe Alliance

451-534-4727

BY
EGG
P/S DEPUTY
CITY CLERK

15 OCT 26 PM 2:02

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Dear Mayor, please add some SAFETY items to the proposed Ordinance to make it SAFER for ALL!!
Thank !!!!!

CAUTION &
Signed,
US Angelends

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Add 4

items:



1. Hive Size Limits
2. Proper Signage
3. Distance From Sensitive areas
4. "Opt out" feature for allergic and children

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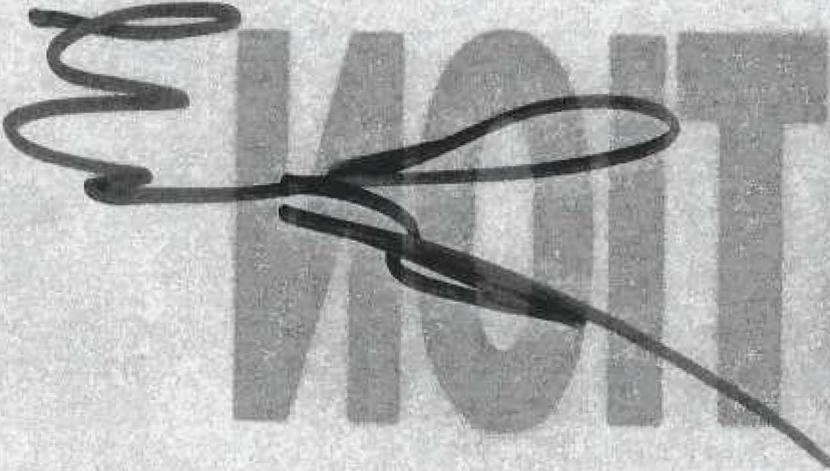
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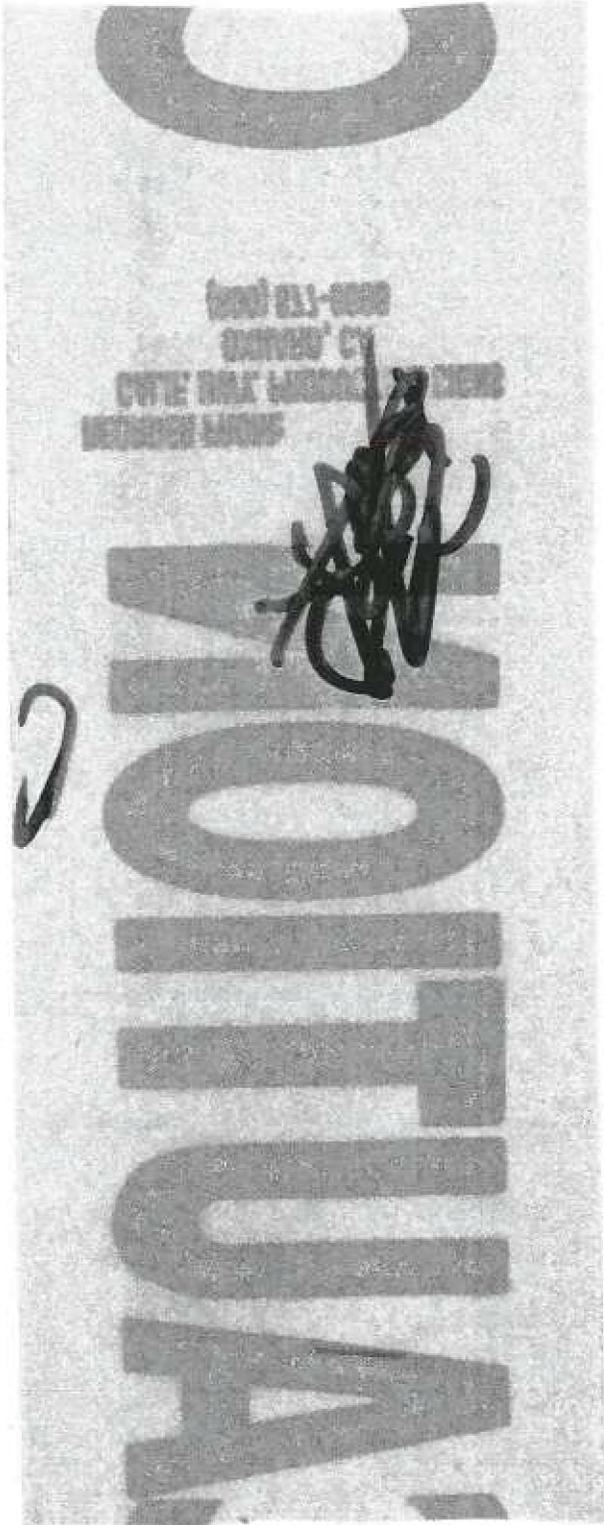
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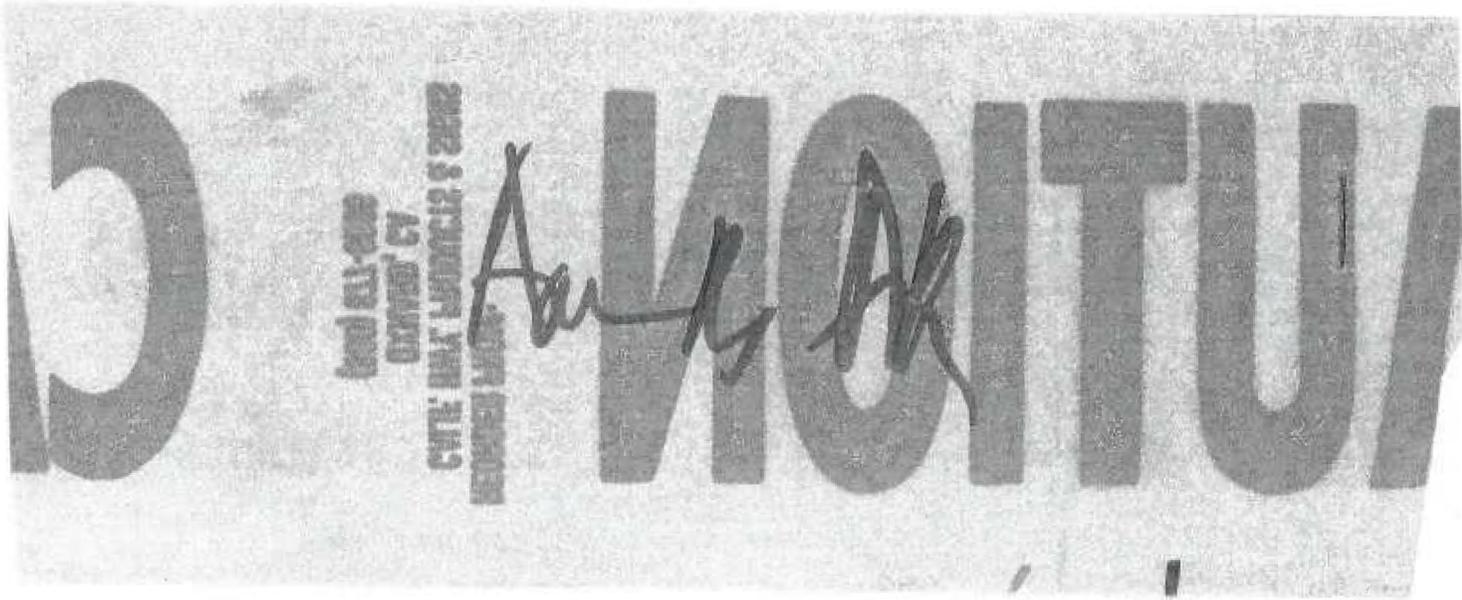
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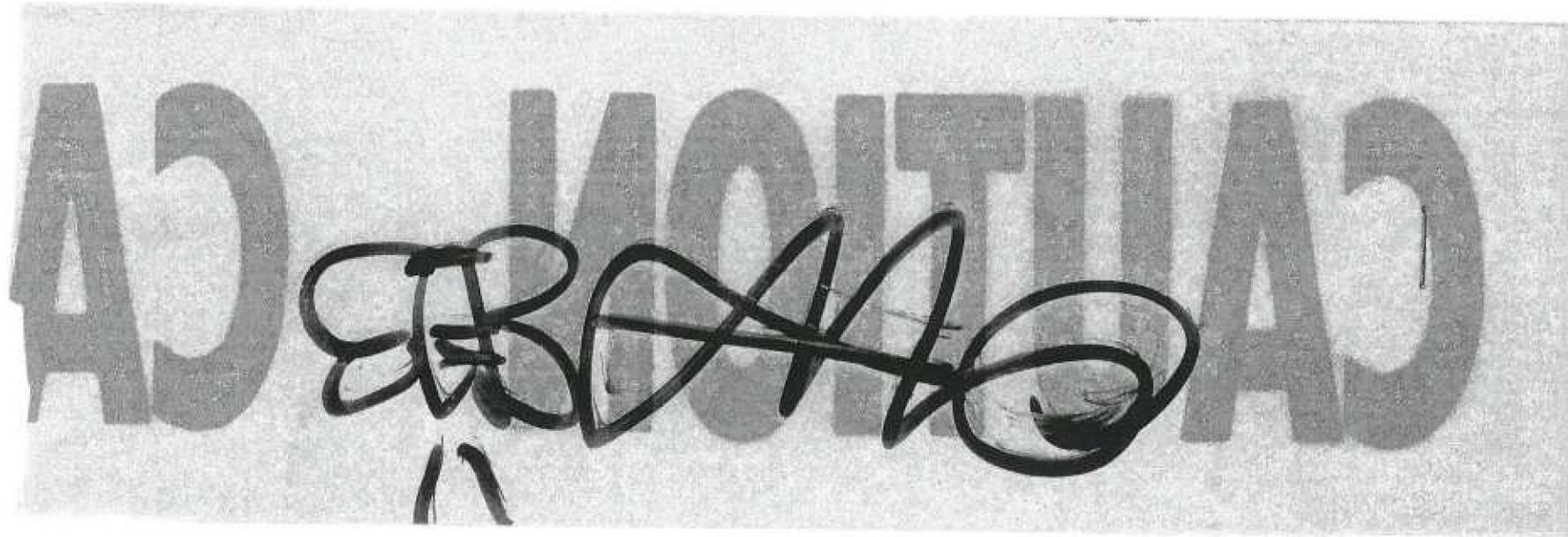
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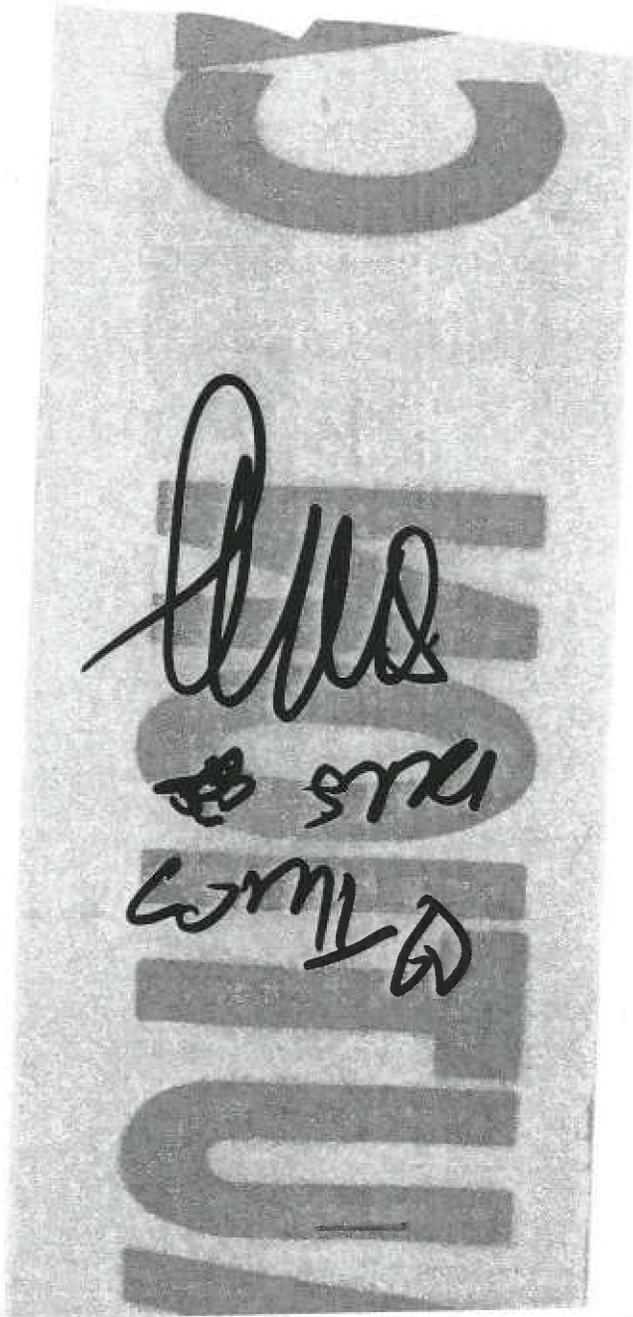
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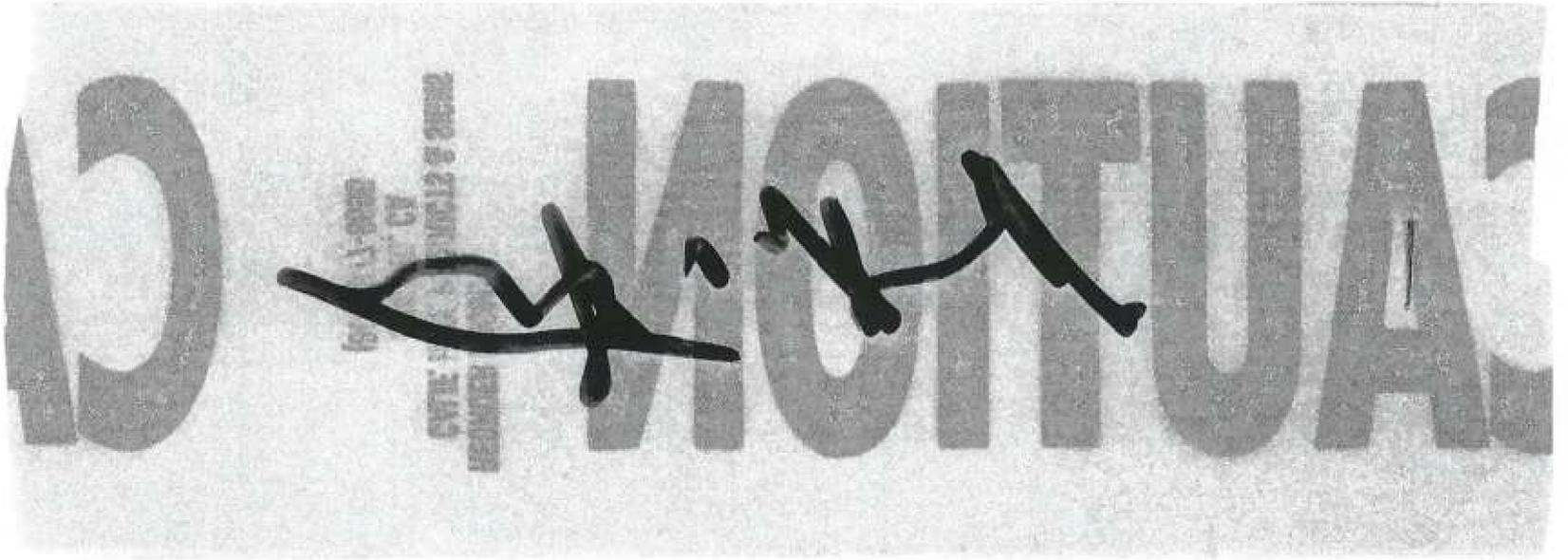
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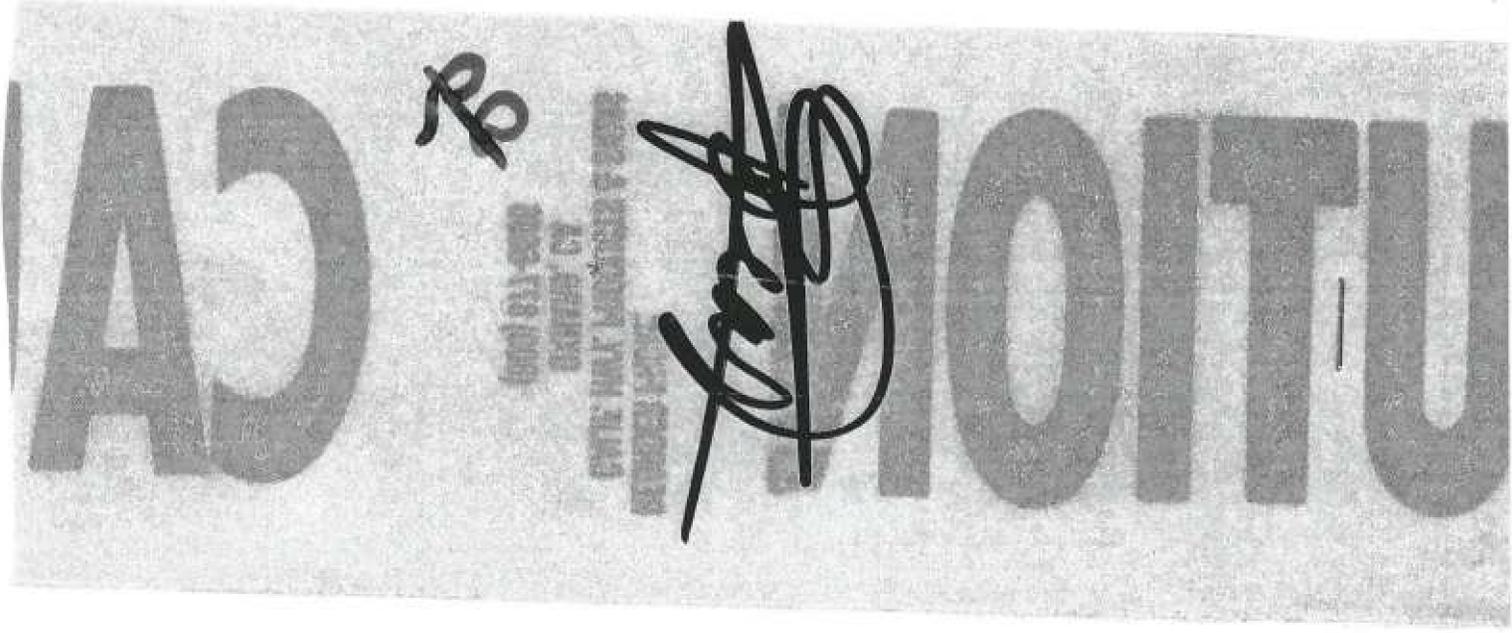
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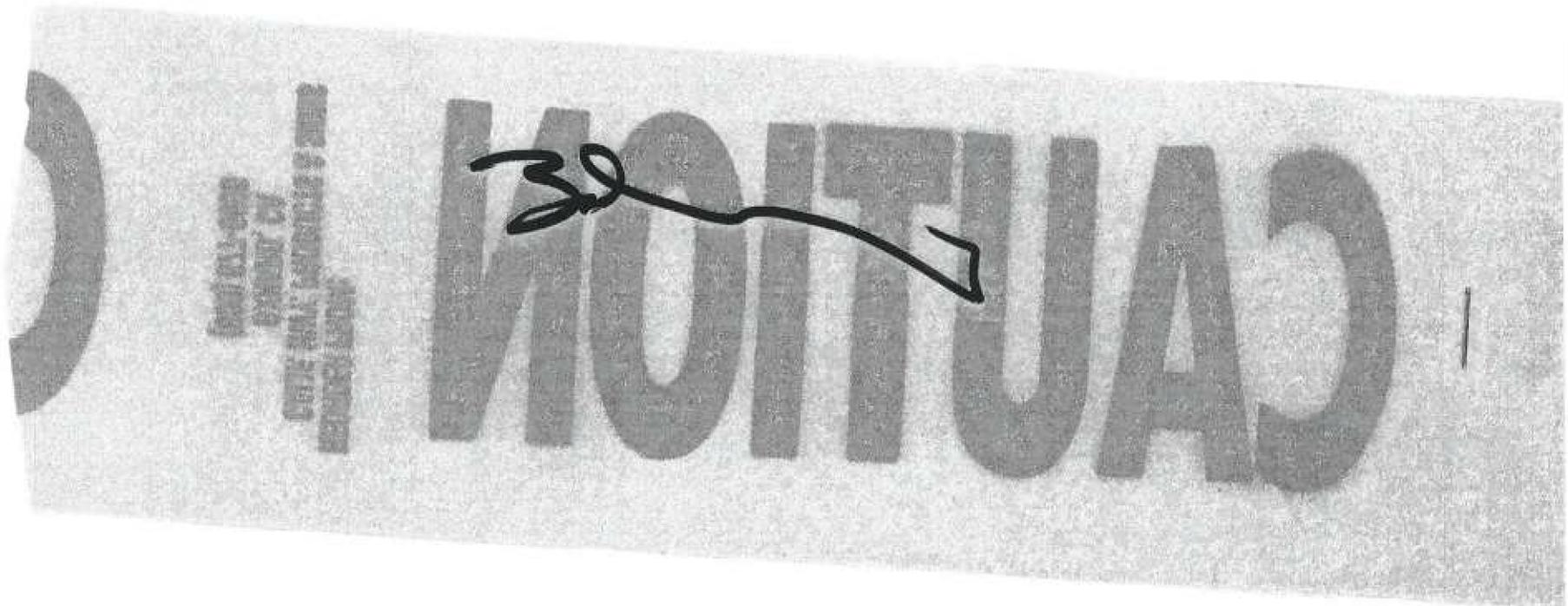
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RECOMMENDED
CALL FOR PRODUCTS & SERVICES
AT 800-833-8333

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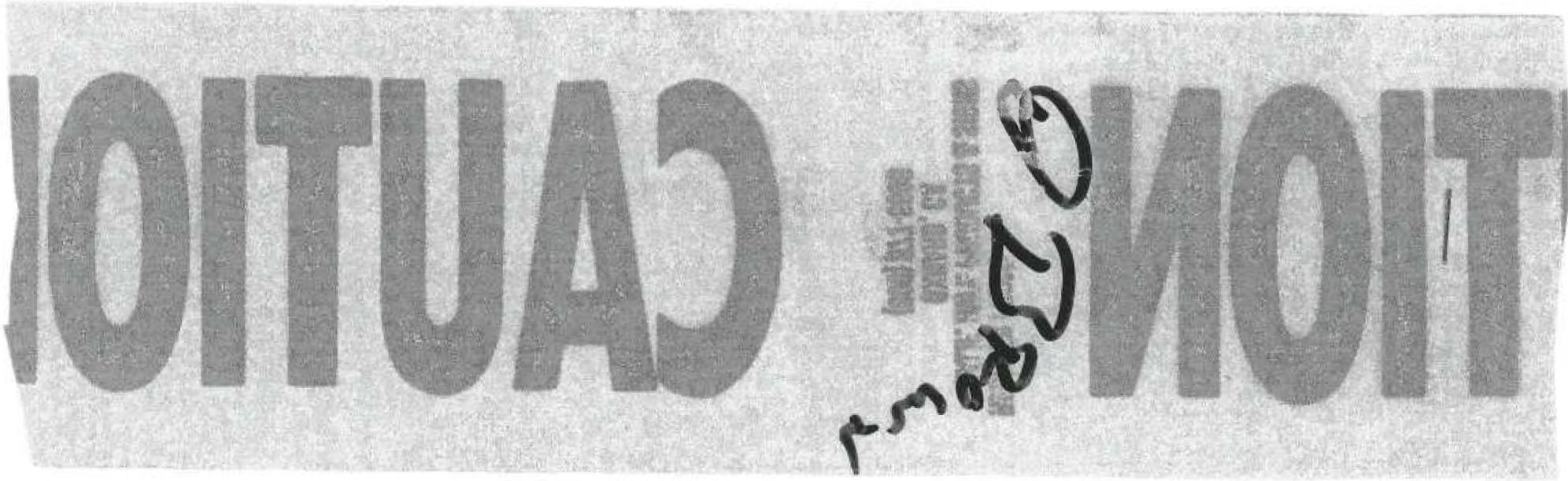
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UAC MOIT

*John Henry
J. J.*

WAV



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ADDITIONAL

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FOR ALL
CITY OF
MICHIGAN



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