

RESOLUTION NO. 06-

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROGRAM FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF LAWN AND LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITHIN THE CITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS,** stormwater runoff is a major source of pollution for the waters of Naples Bay and the Gulf of Mexico; and

**WHEREAS,** remedial actions are necessary in order to improve the water quality of Naples Bay, restore its estuarine ecosystem, and reduce the amount and kinds of pollution flowing into the bay as a result of landscape applications introduced into the City stormwater system; and

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

**WHEREAS,** a program whereby persons are certified by the City to perform lawn and landscape work upon exhibiting a professional level of education and experience has the potential to moderate the impacts of stormwater runoff from lawns and landscapes into Naples Bay and the Gulf of Mexico; and

**WHEREAS,** establishing minimum standards for the certification of lawn and landscape maintenance professionals by the City will result in informing such persons and their residential and business customers of the effects of pesticides, fertilizers and overwatering on the environment; ways to reduce the amount of fertilizers and pesticides utilized; and methods to limit water use on lawns and landscapes, thus potentially lowering the impacts of nonpoint source pollution on the Bay and Gulf; and

**WHEREAS,** such a program would rely upon education and outreach to encourage proper environmental management of lawns and landscapes in an effort

to reduce pollution reaching our natural water bodies in the place of a regulatory framework and associated penalties.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NAPLES, FLORIDA:**

**Section 1.** That to obtain City certification as a lawn and landscape maintenance professional, a person shall demonstrate knowledge of the relationship between their profession and the environment through both experience and education.

**Section 2.** That Certification shall be based on demonstrated ability, experience, and education in the following areas of competency:

- a. Effects on the environment from sediment, nutrients, and pesticides moving off-site through surface or ground water.
- b. Site design and plant selection to enhance the natural environment.
- c. Rates and methods of applying fertilizer and irrigation that minimize negative environmental consequences.
- d. Utilization of Integrated Pest Management to both minimize pests and decrease chemical applications.

**Section 3.** That a person applying for certification by the City as a lawn and landscape maintenance professional shall provide evidence of having completed a course of study with at least six (6) hours of instruction in the areas identified under Section 2.

**Section 4.** That a person applying for certification by the City as a lawn and landscape maintenance professional shall illustrate an ability to apply his or her knowledge of the concepts identified under Section 2 by providing a written, detailed management plan that outlines maintenance activities to be carried out for a specific location.

**Section 5.** That the initial application fee shall be \$175.00, which will be used to defray the costs of certificates and other expenses of the program. A fee of \$50.00 shall be charged to renew certification annually.

- Section 6.** That the City shall provide any person who has satisfied the requirements set forth herein and paid the application fee, a certificate indicating the City considers him or her to be a certified lawn and landscape maintenance professional.
- Section 7.** That, upon the effective date of this resolution, all businesses contracted by the City to provide lawn and landscape maintenance activities shall have at least one supervisor certified by the City as a lawn and landscape professional. That said businesses shall have ten percent (10%) of their staff certified by the City within six (6) months of entering into a contract with the City; and fifty percent (50%) of their staff certified by the City within one (1) year of entering into a contract with the City.
- Section 8.** That, by September 30, 2007, all businesses providing lawn and landscape maintenance services within the City limits shall have at least one supervisor certified by the City as a lawn and landscape professional and a minimum of ten percent (10%) of their staff certified by the City as lawn and landscape professionals.
- Section 9.** That any business meeting the qualifications as outlined in Sections 8 and 9 above by March 31, 2007 shall receive a refund of \$100.00 on their application fee and the first year's renewal fee shall be waived.
- Section 10.** That the certification program shall be managed and administered by the City's Natural Resources Division. However, the City Council shall retain the authority to approve certification of any applicant for lawn and landscape maintenance certification.
- Section 11.** The effective date of this resolution shall be October 1, 2006.

**PASSED IN OPEN AND REGULAR SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NAPLES, FLORIDA, THIS 7th DAY OF JUNE, 2006.**

---

Bill Barnett, Mayor

Attest:

Approved as to form and legality:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tara A. Norman, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert D. Pritt, City Attorney

Date filed with City Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_