

Resolution [NUMBER]

A RESOLUTION OF THE [GOVERNING BODY OF THE MUNICIPALITY], FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE VOLUNTARY ELIMINATION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS AND THE OVERALL REDUCTION OF PLASTICS; PROVIDING FOR A TOWN-SPONSORED EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC AND BUSINESSES REGARDING THE HARM CREATED BY PLASTIC STRAWS AND PLASTIC IN GENERAL TO TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE LIFE; ENCOURAGING THE PROVISION OF STRAWS ONLY ON REQUEST AND THE USE OF REUSABLE OR NATURALLY COMPOSTABLE ALTERNATIVES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the [GOVERNING BODY] has determined that it is in interest of the public health, safety, and welfare of its residents and visitors to reduce litter and pollutants on the land and in the waters of the [GOVERNING BODY]; and

WHEREAS, the [GOVERNING BODY] encourages and supports the reduction of single-use straws and overall reduction of plastic in furtherance of the public's health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the [GOVERNING BODY] seeks to adopt policies that will act to conserve natural resources, contribute to the long-term economic vitality of the [MUNICIPALITY] region, maintain healthy and aesthetically-pleasing experiences for the citizens and visitors of [the MUNICIPALITY], and reduce waste and pollution in the environment and overburdened landfills; and

WHEREAS, single-use plastic straws and stirrers constitute a portion of the litter and pollution that end up in the [MUNICIPALITY'S] streets, parks, public places, storm water management system, waterways and the ocean; and

WHEREAS, approximately 8.8 million tons of plastic pollution flows into the oceans each year and this amount is expected to double by 2025; and

WHEREAS, Freedonia Group, a market research firm, determined that about 390 million plastic straws are used and discarded each day in the United States alone; and

WHEREAS, according to Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup data, single-use plastic straws and stirrers are consistently among the top ten list of most commonly collected items in ocean clean-ups; and

WHEREAS, improperly discarded single-use plastic straws and stirrers pose an environmental hazard to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens and visitors of [MUNICIPALITY], degrade and litter the environment and waters off of Florida's coast, which

include areas within the [MUNICIPALITY], and negatively impact water quality and the surrounding marine life and wildlife; and ¹

WHEREAS, the [MUNICIPALITY'S] goal is to reduce litter and its detrimental effect on [the MUNICIPALITY'S] environment by reducing the sale and distribution of single-use plastic straws and stirrers and replacing them with reusable materials; and

WHEREAS, the [MUNICIPALITY] finds that there are reasonable alternatives to single-use plastic straws and stirrers which are less harmful to the environment and can be composted or biodegrade in landfills, including straws and stirrers made of paper, stainless steel, glass, plant, vegetable and other natural products; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution will preserve and enhance the environment of the [MUNICIPALITY]; and

WHEREAS, the [GOVERNING BODY] acknowledges that many [MUNICIPALITY] businesses have taken affirmative steps to reduce single-use, non-recyclable plastics and [GOVERNING BODY] encourages these and other proactive efforts to reduce pollution by plastics,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE [GOVERNING BODY] OF THE [MUNICIPALITY], FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: The whereas clauses are incorporated herein as the findings of the [GOVERNING BODY].

Section 2: The [APPOINTED ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER] is hereby directed to initiate an educational program to educate the public, including residents, visitors and businesses regarding the harm to terrestrial and marine life created by plastic straws and plastic products in general and to implement it on or prior to [DATE].

Section 3: The [APPOINTED ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER] is directed to complete a review of the Town's purchasing policies prior to [DATE]. The purpose of this review is to strive to eliminate the use of single use plastics for [MUNICIPALITY] operations and events, except as may be necessary to meet public safety needs by the end of [2020].

Section 4: All [MUNICIPALITY] businesses are encouraged to discontinue providing single-use plastic drinking straws, plastic stirrers, and similar plastic items as soon as possible.

Section 5: [MUNICIPALITY] businesses that provide a product for which a plastic straw, plastic stirrer and similar plastic items are encouraged to offer paper straws, metal straws or other biodegradable items as substitutes, and to provide a plastic straw or plastic stirrer only when an individual insists upon such product.

¹ This clause is particularly relevant for coastal municipalities.

Section 6: The [MUNICIPALITY CLERK] is directed to provide a copy of this Resolution to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, [COUNTY IN WHICH THE MUNICIPALITY SITS], and the Marine Industry Association of [SOUTH FLORIDA OR OTHER RELEVANT SUBDIVISION].

Section 7: All [MUNICIPALITY] residents and visitors are encouraged to discontinue the use of plastic drinking straws, plastic stirrers and similar plastic items. Furthermore, all [MUNICIPALITY] residents and visitors are encouraged to politely refuse to accept such items, if offered by a business.

Section 8: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its execution.