

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-063**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COCONUT CREEK, FLORIDA, AFFIRMING THE CITY'S INTENTION TO REDUCE USAGE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC ITEMS IN ITS OPERATIONS; AFFIRMING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO INCREASE PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS RELATING TO THE EFFECT OF PLASTIC IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE REDUCTION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC ITEMS; ENCOURAGING BUSINESSES AND RESTAURANTS WITHIN THE CITY TO REDUCE THE USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC ITEMS SUCH AS STRAWS, RETAIL BAGS, AND POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO DISTRIBUTE THIS RESOLUTION TO ALL MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN BROWARD COUNTY, THE BROWARD COUNTY COMMISSION, AND THE BROWARD LEAGUE OF CITIES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, approximately 8.3 billion metric tons of plastic have been produced worldwide since 1950, of which only 9% has been recycled, and if the present trend continues, by 2050, there will be 12 billion metric tons of plastic in landfills (see generally “Here’s How Much Plastic Trash Is Littering the Earth” by Laura Parker, published by National Geographic Society on December 20, 2018, last viewed on August 28, 2020, at <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2017/07/plastic-produced-recycling-waste-ocean-trash-debris-environment/>); and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 8 million metric tons of plastic enter the ocean in 2010 from land-based sources (see generally article published by the National Ocean Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, last viewed on August 28, 2020, at <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/hazards/marinedebris/plastics-in-the-ocean.html>); and

**WHEREAS**, single-use plastic straws, stirrers, utensils, and other single-use plastics pose an environmental hazard to the health, safety, and welfare of the residents and visitors by negatively impacting water quality and surrounding wildlife (see generally “Do plastic straws really make a difference?” by Rob Jordan, published by Stanford University on September 18, 2018, last viewed on August 28, 2019, at

<https://earth.stanford.edu/news/do-plastic-straws-really-make-difference#gs.fgvn9d> and “Threat of plastic pollution to seabirds is global, pervasive, and increasing,” by Chris Wilcox, Erik Van Sebille, and Britta Denise Hardesty, published by Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America on August 31, 2015, last viewed on August 28, 2020, at <https://www.pnas.org/content/112/38/11899>); and

**WHEREAS**, while certain plastics may be biodegradable or recyclable, the vast majority of single-use plastics, including straws, stirrers, and utensils, cannot be recycled due to their polymer resins, synthetic fibers, and additives, or are too small to be properly processed for recycling and often become litter or are landfilled, making them a nuisance on the environment (see generally “Production, use, and fate of all plastics ever made” by Roland Geyer, Jenna R. Jambeck, and Kara Lavender Law, published by Science Advances on July 19, 2017, last viewed on August 28, 2020, at <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/3/7/e1700782.full>); and

**WHEREAS**, alternatives to single-use plastic items that are biodegradable, renewable, or reusable are readily available, such as items made of paper, bamboo, sugar cane, or other natural products that are compostable (see generally “30 Alternatives to Plastic Straws to Skip Single-Use Plastic,” by Julianne Waite, published by Plastic Pollution Coalition on February 27, 2020, last viewed on August 28, 2020, at <https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/blog/2020/2/26/25-alternatives-to-plastic-straws-to-skip-single-use-plastic>); and

**WHEREAS**, several companies such as Starbucks, McDonalds, American Airlines, and Aramark have announced plans to phase out or discontinue the use of plastic straws, plastic cutlery, plastic bags, and various packaging materials to further the efforts made by this grassroots movement (see generally “The Real Reason Why So Many Cities and Businesses Are Banning Plastic Straws Has Nothing To Do With Straws At All,” by Hilary Brueck, published by Business Insider on October 22, 2018, last viewed on August 28, 2020, at <https://www.businessinsider.com/plastic-straw-ban-why-are-there-so-many-2018-7>); and

**WHEREAS**, while the current regulatory landscape in Florida preempts the City's ability to regulate the use of polystyrene and/or plastic bags, many localities in the state have praised Governor Ron DeSantis' veto of HB 771 (2019), which sought to preempt local regulations on single-use plastic straws; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Coconut Creek has consistently proven itself a leader in the realm of environmental sustainability and conscientiousness, and was recognized by Audubon International for its Sustainable Communities Programs, in addition to being a recipient of the "Tree City USA" award for over 30 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the City aspires to reduce the use of common single-use plastic littered items by providing reusable materials at City-sponsored events and improving management of waste and interception of litter on City properties by setting up the appropriate garbage and recycling receptacles; and

**WHEREAS**, the City will further encourage its advisory boards, such as the Environmental Advisory Board and Community Outreach Advisory Board, to research existing and emerging issues and alternatives related to such single-use plastics and inspire behavior change by educating and engaging the community and individuals on this topic through social media and other media outlets; and

**WHEREAS**, the City will remain vigilant in its own operations by assessing any of its current investments that present a high sustainability-related risk, and by emphasizing the importance of procuring products and services that are not harmful to the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the City encourages businesses and restaurants operating in the City to do their part to reduce the use of single-use plastic straws, plastic bags, and polystyrene foam containers through policies, practices, and the use of alternative products deemed appropriate by those businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission of the City of Coconut Creek finds and determines that it is in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of its residents and visitors to reduce litter, the overburdening of landfills, and the introduction of pollutants on the lands and in the water bodies of the City by implementing this action plan to discourage the use of non-readily recyclable or biodegradable single-use plastics that are harmful to the environment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COCONUT CREEK, FLORIDA:**

**Section 1:** That the foregoing “WHEREAS” clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this resolution.

**Section 2:** That the City Commission of the City of Coconut Creek hereby implements this action plan to discourage the use of non-readily recyclable or biodegradable single-use plastics that are harmful to the environment, and encourages businesses operating in the City to reduce the use of single-use plastic straws, plastic bags, and polystyrene foam containers through policies, practices, and the use of alternative products deemed appropriate by those businesses.

**Section 3:** That the City Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized to establish a program wherein businesses and restaurants that reduce the use of single-use items and take other environmentally-friendly measures may be eligible for recognition by the City and to receive other benefits, as appropriate pursuant to the program.

**Section 4:** That the City of Coconut Creek will continue to review and update its own policies with the intention of reducing the use of single-use plastic items in City operations and at City events, whenever possible and appropriate, including, but not limited to:

1. Establish a Green Events Checklist;
2. Install more water bottle refilling stations throughout the City; and
3. Purchase and brand green merchandise with the City’s logo.

**Section 5:** That the City of Coconut Creek will continue to grow its public outreach efforts related to the impact of plastic on the environment and the reduction of single-use plastic items with a target audience including employees, residents, visitors, and students within the City.

**Section 6:** That the City Commission hereby directs the City Clerk to distribute this resolution to all municipalities within Broward County, the Broward County Commission, and the Broward League of Cities.

**Section 7:** That if any clause, section, other part or application of this resolution is held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, in part or in

application, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion or applications of this resolution.

**Section 8:** That this resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

**Adopted this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Louis Sarbone, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leslie Wallace May, City Clerk

Sarbone	<u>Aye</u> __
Rydell	<u>Aye</u> __
Tooley	<u>Aye</u> __
Belvedere	<u>Aye</u> __
Welch	<u>Aye</u> __