

1 [Support of Plastic and Litter Reduction Ordinance File Number: 180519]

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3 **Resolution urging the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to adopt File Number**  
4 **180519, an Ordinance amending the Environment Code to reduce plastic pollution,**  
5 **promote reusable foodware and eliminate certain toxic chemicals from foodware**  
6 **products.**

7 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has a duty to protect the natural  
8 environment, the economy, and the health of its citizens; and,

9 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has a goal of achieving zero waste,  
10 which includes the elimination of toxic chemicals from the environment; and,

11 WHEREAS, Policies that promote reusable foodware encourage the reuse of materials  
12 and a reduction of pollutants thereby conserving resources and protecting the environment;  
13 and,

14 WHEREAS, Marine plastics are particularly problematic as they degrade into pieces  
15 and particles of all sizes attracting organic pollutants which collect on the surface of plastic  
16 particles, entangle or are ingested by ocean species which can lead to disease and even  
17 death and have been detected in seafood sold for human consumption; and,

18 WHEREAS, Researchers have detected plastics in bottled water, sea salt, honey and  
19 indoor and outdoor air; and,

20 WHEREAS, Eighty percent of marine debris originates on land, primarily as litter in  
21 urban runoff; and,

22 WHEREAS, A 2011 Bay Area study of street litter in areas impacting urban runoff to  
23 the San Francisco Bay found that sixty seven percent of all litter items were single-use food or  
24 beverage packaging with fifty percent of those items coming from fast food service; and,

1           WHEREAS, Studies of the litter collected during California Coastal Cleanup Days from  
2 1989 to 2014, found that seven of the top ten items were single-use food and beverage ware  
3 items among them plastic straws; and,

4           WHEREAS, As of 2012, an estimated 120 billion single-use cups are used per year in  
5 the United States, which would amount to 370 per person per year; and,

6           WHEREAS, An estimated 500 million straws are used each day in the United States,  
7 equal to 1.5 per person per day which would amount to more than a million straws used per  
8 day in San Francisco; and,

9           WHEREAS, Single-use foodware may threaten public health as many types contain a  
10 number of additives that are known or suspected carcinogens or endocrine disruptors, such  
11 as phthalates, perchlorate, and fluorinated chemicals that are known to leach from foodware  
12 into the food and beverages they contain; and,

13           WHEREAS, Fluorinated chemicals, also known as per- and polyfluorinated alkyl  
14 substances (“PFAS”), are synthetic chemicals commonly used in and on single-use foodware  
15 products to repel water and grease which are extremely persistent in the environment, leach  
16 into food, and can be taken up from soil into food; and,

17           WHEREAS, A 2018 Center for Environmental Health study found that 57% of tested  
18 foodware contained significant levels of fluorinated chemicals and in 2016, the United States  
19 Food and Drug Administration rescinded its approval for the use of three such fluorinated  
20 chemicals from food contact materials due to associated heightened risks of cancer, toxicity,  
21 and other health effects; and,

22           WHEREAS, Other PFAS chemicals have similar chemical structures, and may pose  
23 similar risks; and,

24           WHEREAS, San Francisco is a recognized leader in developing model zero waste  
25 policies and programs having been the first city to ban single-use plastic checkout bags in

1 2007, triggering a widespread movement to ban such plastic bags and to charge for other  
2 checkout bags across California and beyond; and,

3 WHEREAS, In continuing to strive for zero waste, San Francisco has the opportunity to  
4 once again demonstrate its leadership by developing policies that reduce the use of toxics in  
5 single-use foodware; and,

6 WHEREAS, Supervisor Katy Tang introduced the Plastic and Litter Reduction  
7 Ordinance which would ensure that no person may sell, offer for sale, or otherwise distribute  
8 in the city any straws, stirrers, splash sticks, cocktail sticks, or toothpicks made with plastic,  
9 distribute any foodware accessories not upon customer request or self-serve, or host an  
10 outdoor or indoor event with 100 attendees or more on city property without offering a  
11 reusable cup option for at least ten percent of attendees; and,

12 WHEREAS, The Plastic and Litter Reduction Ordinance also ensures that no person  
13 may sell or distribute any foodware that is not fluorinated chemical free verified through third  
14 party certification; now, therefore, be it,

15 RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment recognizes that the Plastic and  
16 Litter Reduction Ordinance will help the City and County of San Francisco protect against  
17 marine pollution and make progress toward its goal of zero waste in San Francisco; and, be it,

18 FUTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment urges the Board of  
19 Supervisors and the Mayor to adopt File Number 180519, an ordinance ensuring single use  
20 food ware reduction; and, be it,

21 FUTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment urges the Board of  
22 Supervisors and the Mayor to support policies to further encourage reusables and reduce  
23 foodware waste, including requiring food establishments to use reusable foo ware and charge  
24 customers for providing single-use foodware items.

1 I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted at the Commission on the  
2 Environment's Meeting on July 24, 2018.

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6 Anthony Valdez, Commission Secretary

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8 Vote:

9 Ayes:

10 Noes:

11 Absent:

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