

RESOLUTION No. 2016-XX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF VENICE, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE INITIATIVES BY LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES IN FLORIDA TO LESSEN THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS ON OUR ENVIRONMENT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the City of Venice is diligent in its efforts to preserve the beautiful environment that supports the tourism industry which is so vital to the economy of the City of Venice and the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, single-use plastic shopping bags are detrimental because they do not fully degrade in our oceans or land environment and they introduce unsafe chemicals into our environment; and

WHEREAS, single-use plastic shopping bags create the potential for death of (land) and marine animals through entanglement and ingestion; and

WHEREAS, the expansive usage of single-use plastic shopping bags and their typical disposal rates creates an impediment to the City's waste reduction and recycling goals while creating unsightly litter; and

WHEREAS, single-use plastic shopping bags are difficult to recycle and frequently contaminate material that is processed through the City's curbside recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, reusable bags are considered to be the best option to reduce waste and litter, protect wildlife and conserve resources; and

WHEREAS, Council acknowledges that some businesses have taken affirmative steps to accomplish this goal and recognizes their proactive efforts; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the Council to encourage and enable the location of a viable reusable bag manufacturing operation in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the Florida Legislature to provide statewide deregulation of the proliferation of single-use plastic shopping bags; and

WHEREAS, if the State does not act to regulate the proliferation of single-use shopping bags the Council would like to potentially enact regulations governing the use of single-use plastic shopping bags;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VENICE, FLORIDA, as follows:

SECTION 1. The City of Venice is committed to the long-term goal of reducing the harms of plastic pollution on our fragile environment and committed to ensuring a thriving, attractive and safe environment for current and future residents and tourists.

SECTION 2. The City of Venice does hereby support initiatives to lessen the negative impact of single-use plastic shopping bags specifically, and supports the promotion of reusable shopping bags as the best alternative to single-use plastic shopping bags.

SECTION 3. The City of Venice supports the State Legislature’s action to allow local municipalities in the State of Florida to regulate their own local communities in an effort to alleviate the harms cause by single-use plastic shopping bags; and, therefore, the City of Venice opposes any statewide preemption on local efforts to determine the best course of action with regards to protection of the local environment and tourism economy.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE VENICE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 23RD DAY OF AUGUST 2016.

John W. Holic, Mayor, City of Venice

ATTEST

Lori Stelzer, MMC, City Clerk