

"City on the Gulf"

City of Venice  
Request to Speak (print legibly)

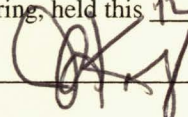
Name: JOHN KURZ Date: 7/12/16  
Address: 2120 Hawthorne St  
City: SPARTA State FL Zip 34239  
Telephone: 941-915-3439  
Organization (if any): ~~SPARTA~~ Surfrider Foundation

Please Check One

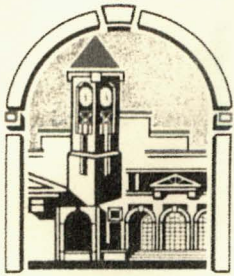
- Audience Participation
- Agenda - Topic: PLASTIC BAG RESOLUTION

If you are going to present evidence and/or testimony during a public hearing, you are required to complete and sign the following oath. You are not required to sign the oath if you are speaking at Audience Participation or at a workshop.

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the evidence or factual representation, which I am about to give or present at the public hearing, held this 12 day of JULY 2016 is truthful.

Signature: 

Comments at public hearing and during audience participation are limited to five minutes per speaker unless otherwise noted.



"City on the Gulf"

# City of Venice

Request to Speak (print legibly)

Name: Gerald Bullano Date: 7/12/16  
 Address: 316 Park Blvd South  
 City: VENICE State: FL Zip: 34285-2533  
 Telephone: 610-453-7345

Please Check One

- Audience Participation.
- Agenda - Topic:

Organization (if any): NONE RESIDENT

Resolution to BAN PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS

If you are going to present evidence and/or testimony during a public hearing, you are required to complete and sign the following oath. You are not required to sign the oath if you are speaking at Audience Participation or at a workshop.

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the evidence or factual representation, which I am about to give or present at the public hearing, held this 12 day of 7 2016 is truthful.

Signature: G Bullano

Comments at public hearing and during audience participation are limited to five minutes per speaker unless otherwise noted.

## Single Use Plastic Shopping Bags

Good morning Mayor Holic and City Council Members.

I want to thank you for permitting me to speak on topic of the of Resolution No 2016-xx.

My name is Gerald Bullano. I earned a BS, MS, & PhD in Chemical Engineering. I'm a retired R&D Manager that practiced in the chemical/ petrochemical and polymers field and held professional engineering licenses in Pennsylvania and Ohio. I have been a year round resident of Venice for the last five years.

So why am I here?

Because... I take exception to a small group of people, under the banner of a environmentally friendly named organization, with their origin outside of our city and county, in fact, from California; that try to impose their will on the residents of Venice by persuading the city government to make up a resolution w/o a thorough understanding or study of the issue.

So now, lets talk about plastic, single use, shopping bags. Here is what is demonstrated every day in very large numbers. They are convenient, safe to use, and most important, they are a very economically sound solution to transporting your groceries from the store check out counter to your refrigerator or pantry.

Convenience: My understanding is the median age in Venice is about 68. Because of the difficulty that some residents have carrying heavy bags; the economics and strength of plastic bag allows the grocery store to pack the amount in each bag that the shopper can handle. When the contents are wet or are cold and water has been condensed; they don't break like paper bags.

The plastic bags are multiple use bags incorrectly labeled single-use bags. For example: they can be used for safe bagging of kitchen/cooking waste. They seal in odors and when placed in the larger trash bag used for curbside, it makes for a more sanitary and cleaner pickup by our utility department. They can be used to pick up our pet's natural function. Can you imagine filling and transporting it in paper bags? Reusable cloth bags - definitely not! In fact, can you imagine what Venice would smell like; if we did not have plastic trash bags for curbside use.

## Single Use Plastic Shopping Bags

Reusable bags have to be purchased and you expect to pay at least \$20 per year. That is \$20 that a family could use for something more important. Then we have to wash them, consuming detergent, scarce water supplies, electricity, and producing more sewer water for our city's treatment plants to process. And eventually they are discarded to the land fill.

Cost of a plastic single serve bag is less than a penny for the merchant. A paper bag cost of at least five to ten cents and is passed on to the buyer in one form or another.

So if we had to pay for paper bags each time we went grocery shopping, that could add 20 to 40 dollars per year per shopper. Now multiply that by maybe 8000 residents buying groceries for the 20,000 people residing in Venice. That comes to 160 to 320 thousand dollars per year that our residents could spend on something a lot more useful or important to them. The same argument and a similar dollar value can be arrived at for reusable bags.

And ... you know from economics 101... that some people will just drive past the Venice Store and shop outside the city limits where plastic shopping bags are used!

Now, One of the solutions proposed by the group wanting to ban plastic bags is .... don't have the grocery store - bag your groceries. Just load them one by one, back into the cart and then, load them all one by one in to your car or truck. When you get home then just unload them one by one and carry them individually into your dwelling. Now; these are the great minds that are persuading you to write this resolution which will be followed by an appeal to regulate or legislate against the use of plastic bags.

Personally, I enjoy biking around the city on errands and for exercise. Thank you Mayor and City Council for all you do to provide safe bike lanes and bike paths.

Yes, I bike all over the island. Do you know what I see? I see clean streets, gutters and catch basins. When sailing on the gulf, I don't observe any bags on the water. I don't see any bags on the beach. I see natural debris after storm or high winds; but I have not observed plastic single use bags or other trash. Why? Because the residents of Venice observe the ordinances and properly dispose of the bags. Just continue to enforce the

**Single Use  
Plastic Shopping Bags**

ordinances already on the books. Regarding fish, I've seen dead ones wash up due to algae bloom and other events occurring in the Gulf. However, I have yet to see, a dead fish with a plastic single serve bag in its mouth.

Finally, the residents of Venice vote on plastic shopping bags every time they shop in a grocery store. At check out; the clerk asks, "Is plastic OK?" and if you notice, most shoppers maybe eight out of ten or more, leave with their goods in plastic shopping bags.

So where is the problem?

In summary, Thank you for allowing me to speak in opposition to the resolution No. 2016-xx. I hope that you now agree with me that the convenience, practicality, and economics of the plastic bag versus the alternatives; far outweighs the limited value of passing the bag ban resolution to be presented in this session.

Now, may I approach and hand each council member a recent, related news article?

Respectfully read before and submitted to the Venice City Council on July 12, 2016 by:

*G Bullano*

Gerald Bullano,  
Resident of Venice, Florida;

*In the interest of providing all sides of the issue, I found these Two articles from 2007 when this topic peaked out.*

*Excerpt below from:*

## Food Packaging -- Roles, Materials, and Environmental Issues

Print

**April 1, 2007**

First published in *Journal of Food Science*. April 2007. 72 (3), R39–R55. doi:10.1111/j.1750-3841.2007.00301.x. ([Download PDF version](#))

*Arguments supporting the development of biodegradable polymers range from addressing problems of solid waste disposal and litter to substituting renewable resources (plant origin) for nonrenewable resources (oil, coal, and natural gas) as raw materials. Despite certain advantages, the use of biodegradable materials is not a solution to all solid waste management problems. A switch from synthetic polymers to biopolymers will have little impact on source reduction and incineration, but recycling could be complicated by the existence of blended or modified polymers unless they are separated from the recycling stream. Biodegradable plastics have little benefit in a landfill because landfills generally exclude the oxygen and moisture that are required for biodegradation. If biopolymers become widely used, it is questionable whether there will be sufficient plant materials to make sufficient quantities of packaging polymers and whether optimizing crops for such polymers will interfere with food production. At this time, bioplastics are more expensive than most petroleum-based polymers, so substitution would likely result in increased packaging cost.*

*Excerpt No 2*

## Paper or Plastic ... or Neither

# Will vegetable-based, biodegradable bags replace plastic and paper at the supermarket?

By **Brendan Koerner** from the Green lantern nov 6, 2007

**I've heard that both paper and plastic shopping bags are pretty dreadful for the environment—the former because they require so many trees, the latter because they suffocate animals and last for centuries. I remember a lot of talk in the late 1990s about biodegradable bags composed of vegetable matter—whatever happened to those?**

You can find them at a few tony stores, but they're still nowhere cheap enough for the local Piggly Wiggly. Standard **polyethylene** bags cost retailers around 2 cents each, while paper bags might be a penny or two more expensive. But so-called bioplastic bags, made from natural starches or oils, cost in the neighborhood of 7 or 8 cents—a lot for stores that hand out millions of bags per year. American shoppers are issued more than 100 billion polyethylene bags annually, so a nickel-per-sack premium would add up to an extra \$5 billion in business costs.

But bioplastic bags are closing the gap, in part because people are coming to realize that the two reigning supermarket favorites are far from green. Polyethylene, for starters, is made from fossil fuels—it takes roughly 12 million barrels of oil a year to satisfy America's plastic-bag jones. And since discarded plastic bags **don't break down for eons**, they're free to wreak havoc on wildlife and ecosystems; there are, for example, 46,000 pieces of plastic floating in every square mile of ocean.

## Single Use Plastic Shopping Bags

Given their arboreal origins, paper bags might seem the greener checkout-line option. But that just isn't the case—according to one Environmental Protection Agency estimate, producing a paper bag emits 70 percent more greenhouse gases than manufacturing a similarly sized polyethylene sack. Since paper bags are bulkier than their plastic counterparts, they require more fossil fuel to transport. And as any lobbyist for the **Film and Bag Federation** would be happy to point out, supplying the United States with paper bags requires chopping down 14 million carbon-soaking trees per year.

Bioplastic bags, by contrast, are made from resources like corn that are significantly more renewable than trees. (It takes a lot less time to set up a cornfield than it does to regenerate a forest.) In one common process, corn starch is fermented into lactic acid, which is then mixed with a variety of additives to give it polyethylene-like properties. The source material needn't be corn—potatoes are also popular, and Japan's **Hitachi Zosen** is experimenting with cassava. There are also processes that use microbes to ferment cane sugar and vegetable oils.

Bioplastics companies contend that producing their bags typically requires anywhere from 30 percent to 70 percent less fossil fuel than their polyethylene rivals. When discarded, bioplastic bags are designed to break down completely in a matter of weeks, leaving behind water and the carbon dioxide the corn or potatoes had absorbed before they were harvested. There have been complaints that this rapid decay can only take place under certain conditions, such as the intense heat of an industrial composting facility, but newer bags are designed to degrade more easily.

Bioplastics still have their problems. For example, they usually lack the strength of polyethylene, meaning that they're more readily used as simple food wrappers rather than as grocery bags. There is also a land-use component to the issue: It would take a lot of corn to replace 100 billion polyethylene bags per year, which means that a lot more land would have to be placed under cultivation. (While this problem could be ameliorated somewhat by using genetically modified corn, many environmentalists are opposed to that prospect, as well.) Finally,

## Single Use Plastic Shopping Bags

some researchers contend that bioplastic bags **aren't as green** as the proponents claim.

The bottom line on bioplastic bags is that they're not going to show up in mainstream supermarkets until prices come down significantly. The wild card, though, is government intervention—several American cities are debating whether they should follow **San Francisco's lead** and ban the use of nonbiodegradable plastic shopping bags. (San Francisco estimates that the ban will reduce its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 4,200 metric tons per year, though it's not clear whether this figure takes into account emissions related to the unavoidable increase in paper bag use.)

Aware that polyethylene bags have become something of an environmental boogeyman—whether fairly or not—the plastics industry is striking back. It's touting the advent of polyethylene bags with additives that allegedly accelerate decay. Plastics companies are also supporting government efforts to establish bag recycling centers, most notably **in California**.

At the end of the day, however, the greenest choice is really "none of the above." Your best bet, instead, is to use and reuse a cloth satchel, one that you don't dispose of for several months. The Lantern has been meaning to do this for ages, but laziness has intervened—as it does for many shoppers. Plus, there's a fear of being lumped in with the pious folks who bought those "I'm Not a Plastic Bag" totes—you know, the designer bags that had to be **shipped over from China**. Is there an environmental quandary that's been keeping you up at night? Send it to [ask.the.lantern@gmail.com](mailto:ask.the.lantern@gmail.com), and check this space every Tuesday.

U.S. NEWS

# Cities, States Clash on Social Policy

By VALERIE BAUERLEIN  
AND JON KAMP

RALEIGH, N.C.—When North Carolina lawmakers enacted a law governing transgender bathroom access in response to a Charlotte ordinance, they also spurred on a battle between conservative states and liberal cities over the right to have final say on everything from plastic bags to minimum wage.

The nation's 15,000 municipalities are lawmaking laboratories, particularly on the West Coast, where cities banned smoking and offered health benefits to domestic partners well ahead of most states.

Cities are strategically enacting new laws on social and environmental issues as the Republican Party exercises historic strength in state houses. The party controls the legislature and governor's office in 23 states including North Carolina, according to Ballotpedia, a nonpartisan organization that collects election data.

"We're just seeing kind of a mismatch of policy goals," said Brooks Rainwater, who directs the Center for City Solutions at the National League of Cities.

Lawyers say most states claim a right to exert control over cities because of a century-old legal doctrine known as Dillon's Rule, named for an Iowa judge, saying city governments are subdivisions of a



Arizona passed a law in March keeping towns and cities from imposing charges on plastic bags.

TAYLOR MAHONEY/ARIZONA DAILY SUN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

state and should do only what is necessary. The Colorado Supreme Court in May found that the state had the right to pre-empt cities from banning hydraulic fracturing, a decision cheered by business leaders as good for individual property rights and the state's economy.

"If there's a fiscal impact, if there's something that a state might perceive that's going to hurt the state, then states are going to be concerned about that," said Susan Frederick, senior federal affairs counsel of the nonpartisan National Conference of State Legislatures. Lawmakers used pre-emption smartly until the 1980s

and 1990s, when the tobacco industry and gun lobby used state pre-emption laws to block local restrictions on smoking and weapons, said Mark Pertschuk, director of Pre-emption Watch, an Oakland, Calif., watchdog group largely funded by the health-focused Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

GOP statehouse gains in 2014 led to an "unprecedented and historic" use of pre-emption on local environmental, social and public health policy, Mr. Pertschuk said. Last year, at least 29 states considered laws that would pre-empt cities from adopting policies that

are stronger than state law on social, public health and environmental issues, he said. Conservative lawmakers say they are using pre-emption to block policies pushed by special interests, such as environmental groups seeking bans on plastic products.

The American Legislative Exchange Council, a conservative group representing roughly a quarter of state legislators, maintains model legislation to help states pre-empt local policies on minimum wage, collective bargaining, the use of pesticide and other environmental issues.

ing strength as state lawmakers about six years ago, special-interest groups switched their focus to changing local laws, said Jon Russell, executive director of the American City County Exchange, whose group is a task force of ALEC.

A growing number of cities that restrict plastic bags are running into state opposition in places such as Arizona, where a law signed in March pre-empts towns and cities by saying they can't impose taxes or other charges on "auxiliary containers," including bags.

Sunbelt states like North Carolina have booming cities in states with traditions of fiscal and social conservatism. The divide is prompting a growing list of pre-emption laws seeking to restrain cities' rule-making powers.

"It's frustrating when you have a legislature, who instead of taking care of their business, is sticking their nose in our business," said Greensboro Mayor Nancy Vaughan.

But Republicans say they are reining in cities that don't represent the state's prevailing values.

"The state government is the government that's closest to the people," said Lawrence Shaheen, a Republican strategist in North Carolina who supports the bathroom law. "If you don't like it, run for state government and try and change it."

As Republicans began gain-