

RESOLUTION 18-10-106

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, ENCOURAGING THE VOLUNTARY ELIMINATION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS, POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS, SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS AND THE OVERALL REDUCTION OF PLASTICS WITHIN THE VILLAGE BY BUSINESSES, RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO LESSEN THE HARM TO TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE LIFE CREATED BY PLASTICS IN THE ENVIRONMENT; ELIMINATING MUNICIPAL USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS AND POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS; ELIMINATING SINGLE-USE PLASTICS AND POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS AT EVENTS ON VILLAGE MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES; PROVIDING FOR AN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, Islamorada, Village of Islands (the “Village”) makes significant efforts to preserve the natural resources of the Florida Keys to benefit the environment and residents of Islamorada and to maintain the tourism industry that is vital to the economy of Monroe County and the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, scientists estimate that approximately 8.8 million tons of plastic pollution flows into the oceans each year and this amount is expected to double by 2025 if there is no change in business-owner and consumer attitudes and behavior about the use of single-use plastic products and polystyrene foam containers; and

WHEREAS, single-use plastic straws, single-use plastic bags and other plastic products are produced from non-renewable crude oil; and

WHEREAS, plastics and polystyrene foam do not compost or biodegrade, but break down into small pieces that remain in the soil and are dispersed into lakes, rivers and oceans; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the amount of floating trash in ocean garbage patches is as much as 245,000 tons; and

WHEREAS, it can take up to 1,000 years for plastic straws and plastic bags to break down, thereby introducing dangerous chemicals into the environment as they degrade, and plastic bags that fall to the ocean floor will likely never degrade; and

WHEREAS, plastic bags harm and kill sea turtles when sea turtles mistake plastic bags for jellyfish, one of their favorite food sources, and the World Wide Fund for Nature has

estimated that over 100,000 whales, seals and sea turtles die every year as a result of eating or being entangled by plastic bags; and

WHEREAS, plastic straws are often mistaken for food by animals and because of their cylindrical shape and cause suffocation, perforation of organs and death to the animal; and

WHEREAS, polystyrene foam presents unique management issues because of its lightweight nature, floatability, and likelihood to be blown from disposal sites; and

WHEREAS, when polystyrene foam is washed into or blown into the ocean, it breaks down into smaller, non- biodegradable pieces that are ingested by marine life and other wildlife thus harming or killing them; and

WHEREAS, the toxics in plastics and polystyrene foam enter the human body through leaching into foods that are that are packaged in them and by and entering the food chain through fish and shellfish as well as birds and land animals that have ingested plastics and microplastics; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council of Islamorada, Village of Islands (the “Village Council”) recognizes that some Village businesses are taking affirmative steps to reduce single-use, non-recyclable plastics and polystyrene foam containers and wishes to encourage all Village businesses to take proactive efforts to reduce pollution by plastics and polystyrene; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council recognizes that residents are increasingly aware of the dangers of plastics and polystyrene to the marine and terrestrial life and are making efforts to reduce use of the single-use products and spread awareness of their efforts; and

WHEREAS, Village Council finds that it is the best interest of the Village to urge businesses, residents and visitors to eliminate the use of single-use plastic straws, single-use plastic bags and polystyrene foam containers to lessen the harm to marine and terrestrial life.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. Urging Businesses to Eliminate use of Single-use Plastics and Polystyrene Foam Containers. The Village Council hereby urges Islamorada businesses to discontinue providing plastic drinking straws, plastic stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers and plastic bags and to offer sustainable and biodegradable alternatives to these products.

Section 3. Urging Residents and Visitors to Discontinue Use of Single-use Plastics and Polystyrene Foam Containers. The Village Council hereby urges residents and visitors to make a personal commitment to discontinue use of single-use plastic straws, plastic stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, plastic bags and similar plastic items and to politely refuse to accept such items if offered them by a business.

Section 4. Eliminate Municipal Use of Single-use Plastics and Polystyrene Foam Containers. The Village Manager is hereby directed to complete a review of the Village's purchasing policies prior to December 31, 2018 to consider elimination of the use of single-use plastics and polystyrene for Village operations and events by the end of 2019, except as may be necessary to meet public safety needs.

Section 5. Eliminate Use of Single-use Plastics and Polystyrene Foam at Events on Municipal Properties. The Village Manager is hereby directed to complete a review of Village policies regarding events on municipal properties and consider elimination of the use of single-use plastics and polystyrene during events at Village properties by the end of 2020, except as may be necessary to meet public safety needs.

Section 6. Initiate an Educational Campaign. The Village Manager is further directed to initiate an educational campaign by December 31, 2018 to educate the public, including businesses, residents and visitors regarding the harm created by plastic and polystyrene foam products and provide information about sustainable and biodegradable alternatives to these products.

Section 7. Effective Date. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Motion to adopt by Councilman Mike Forster, seconded by Councilman Jim Mooney.

FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION

VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS

Mayor Chris Sante	YES
Vice Mayor Deb Gillis	YES
Councilman Mike Forster	YES
Councilwoman Cheryl Meads	YES
Councilman Jim Mooney	YES

PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THIS 18TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2018.



CHRIS SANTE, MAYOR

ATTEST:



KELLY TOTH, VILLAGE CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF ISLAMORADA,
VILLAGE OF ISLANDS ONLY



ROGET V. BRYAN, VILLAGE ATTORNEY