

RESOLUTION NO. xxxx-2020

RESOLUTION OF TOWNSHIP OF HAVERFORD OF DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA TO CALL THE PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE TO ACTION TO REDUCE THE USAGE OF AND POLLUTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT BY SINGLE-USE PLASTICS THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA IN ORDER TO LIMIT THEIR WIDESPREAD NEGATIVE IMPACT ON OUR ENVIRONMENT, WILDLIFE, AND HUMAN LIFE

WHEREAS: The Board of Commissioners has approved Ordinance No. Pyy-2020 to add a new Chapter xx in The "General Laws of the Township of Haverford" Titled, " Single Use Plastic Bag and Plastic Straw Regulations".

WHEREAS, Approximately one hundred billion single-use, plastic carry-out bags are discarded by United States consumers annually and five hundred million single-use, plastic straws are discarded by United States consumers every day.

WHEREAS, EPA studies show that small, thin film and light single-use plastics have extremely low recycling rates and significant rates of release into the local and global environment

WHEREAS, plastics do not fully degrade for thousands of years in our oceans or land environments and released plastics are both forming micro- and nano-plastics and accumulating in waterways, oceans and marine and human life.

WHEREAS, scientific studies on plastic microfibers and nano-plastics have indicated that these particles are ingested by marine animals and bioaccumulate up the food chain, carrying with them adhered chemicals and toxins, and posing health impacts to both wildlife and human consumers of seafood.

WHEREAS, studies have found that single use plastics are the most commonly found items in remote islands that have alarming accumulations of plastic debris.

WHEREAS, plastic pollution in the local environment has a local cost for cleaning up streets, and storm inlets and sewers; has a regional cost for cleanup of waterways and beaches and studies have shown it has a national cost in degrading the economic benefits of access to a clean environment.

WHEREAS, state laws banning single use plastic bags and/or straws have been successfully enacted in eight (8) states with a population of over 65 million people to date and many retailers have already voluntarily adopted wider bans and fee policies.

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the Board of Commissioners to encourage and enable fewer single-use plastic items to exist within the local economy.

The Board of Commissioners recognizes that in order to limit the widespread negative impact on our environment, wildlife, and human life, action is required by other governments and elected officials, and therefore calls upon:

- The Pennsylvania House Representatives and Senate to preclude state exemption of initiatives within local municipalities to lessen the usage of single-use plastics; approve its own single use plastic bag and straw ban and fee legislation; ban the marketing of plastic bags as biodegradable; and require that any plastic bag labeled with the term “compostable” meet the applicable ASTM International standard specification.
- The United States Congress to address the widespread negative impact on plastics on our environment, wildlife, and human life by enacting sound, effective legislation promoting research on biodegradable alternatives for single use plastics and banning single use plastics where appropriate.

RESOLVED, this 13th day of April, 2020.

Township of Haverford
William F. Wechsler, President

Attested by: David R. Burman, Township Manager