

May 13, 2019

Dear Mayor Marlowe and New Port Richey City Council:

1. In its capacity as the environmental advisory committee of the City, and by unanimous vote, the Environmental Committee formally recommends the City immediately initiate the process of creating a municipal ordinance prohibiting the use of plastic straws. In light of the governor's veto of House Bill 771, there are now no impediments to the City moving forward with such an ordinance, as recommended by the Committee earlier this year and with the advocacy of New Port Richey resident, Noah Denny.

2. In this same context and same spirit, and by unanimous vote, The Environmental Committee formally recommends the City initiate the process of creating a municipal ordinance prohibiting the use of single-use plastic bags and polystyrene products. With the detrimental environmental impact of plastic in general and single-use plastic bags in particular now well established in scientific studies, and increasingly recognized in society as a whole, it is appropriate for this City to again take a leadership role in environmental stewardship and enact such an ordinance.

Select Supporting References:

Gainesville Ordinance banning plastic bags

https://library.municode.com/fl/gainesville/ordinances/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=935378

Coral Gables Ordinance banning plastic bags

<http://www.baglaws.com/assets/pdf/florida-coral-gables.pdf>

Encyclopedia Britannica on "Plastic Pollution"

<https://www.britannica.com/science/plastic-pollution>

Baby Dolphin found dead with stomach full of plastic

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/baby-dolphin-plastic-pollution-stomach-florida-fort-myers-beach-a8891406.html>