

08/20/21

## **Proposal for Prohibition of Polystyrene (Styrofoam) Food and Drink Containers at City Approved Events**

To Mayor Marlowe and City Council Members of New Port Richey,

Concerned citizen Noah Denny met with the New Port Richey Environmental Committee on Monday July 12 and August 09, 2021 to discuss his proposal to prohibit use of polystyrene food and drink containers at City approved events.

Two years ago, Noah proposed a complete City ban on polystyrene (Styrofoam), which was not adopted by City Council. Although public polystyrene prohibition will be less effective at limiting plastic waste and pollution compared to his first proposal, any policy that can be enacted to reduce waste in any form is a benefit to both the City of New Port Richey and to the environment.

With recent changes to Coronavirus protocols for public gatherings, a reboot of popular public events at local venues, that draw thousands to New Port Richey, are likely being considered. The success the City has had in positioning itself as a forward-looking, resilient community will only be enhanced by adopting these recommendations. Now is the time to enact a prohibition of polystyrene food and drink containers at City approved events.

Any policy should be based on these points:

- Polystyrene is a type of plastic commonly referred to as Styrofoam. However, polystyrene can take the form of other plastics.
- Most plastics follow recycling codes from #1 to #7. Polystyrene is a #6, which is not accepted by recycling facilities within Pasco County. (^1)
- Any proposal prohibiting polystyrene at City approved events should explicitly define polystyrene as any Styrofoam container, cup, or plastic labeled #6 as its recycling code.
- Other states, counties, and cities are already enacting similar policies: Maine, New York, and Massachusetts have existing polystyrene and Styrofoam food and drink container prohibitions. (^1, ^2, ^3) However, this proposal bans such products during City approved events only, but also includes #6 plastics.

In this regard, we propose the City adopt a policy prohibiting polystyrene (Styrofoam) food and drink containers at City approved events.

If you would like to reach out to Noah directly, his contact information is: [noahdenny@icloud.com](mailto:noahdenny@icloud.com) / (727-809-1222).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Environmental Committee of New Port Richey

Dell deChant, Chair

Rose Mohr, Vice-Chair

Linda Blake, Secretary

Patricia Jackson, Member

Amber Blais, Member

Lexi Lombardi, Member

Sources

^1: Pasco County FL, Recycling, <https://www.pascocountyfl.net/181/Recycling>

^2: News Center Maine, Plastic bags and polystyrene foam banned in Maine, 6:22 AM EDT 1 July 2021 <https://bit.ly/2Tu7jpC>

^3: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Expanded Polystyrene Foam Container and Polystyrene Loose Fill Packaging Ban, <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/120762.html>

^4: MassGreen.org, Polystyrene Laws in Massachusetts, <http://www.massgreen.org/polystyrene-legislation.html>