

From: **Eleanor O'Connor Weinstein**

Date: Tue, May 1, 2018 at 8:19 AM

Subject: Banning Plastic Straws

Hello Mr. Khamis.

Let us introduce ourselves. We are in the sixth grade at Dartmouth Middle School. We also happen to be in your wife's sixth period social studies class. Recently, we have become aware of the rapidly increasing number of plastic straws in the ocean. In fact, by 2050, the ocean will have more plastic straws than fish. Our generation does not want to inherit a trashed planet. Also, the plastic in the ocean is being mistaken as food by marine life, which can be fatal to them. This is causing a higher risk of endangerment in many marine species.

Every day, humans use 500 million plastic straws, which end up in the ocean. Our class feels responsible, so we wanted to find a way to help. We did a great deal of research, and finally decided that the best option for us was to try to ban them in San Jose.

People may argue that plastic straws are essential, and that replacements are too expensive. Actually, paper straws would cost only six cents more than plastic straws, and they can be recycled. Stainless steel straws may cost more, but they are reusable, and one can last you a lifetime. These replacements are also healthier because they do not have BPA, a proven harmful chemical, like plastic straws.

As you can see, plastic straws are harmful to the environment, and us. If we don't do something now, our generation will inherit an inhospitable planet. Fortunately, we can easily prevent this from happening by getting rid of the straws. But we need to do this sooner rather than later, before it is too late.

I hope you consider banning plastic straws in San Jose, and that you bring it up to the city council.

Sincerely,

The Ban Plastic Straws Committee, 6th grade, Dartmouth Middle School

This email was sent from a student gmail account at Union School District. The content of the email should be related to education in support of 21st Century learning. If you have any questions regarding this message, please email _____ and include "Student email" in the subject line.

From: Serena Desai

Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 2:32 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; District5; District 6; District1; District 10

Cc: Fedor, Denelle; Dexter, Michele; City Clerk

Subject: Comment Letter for Rules and Open Gov't Agenda 05/02/18 Item G4

Hello Rules and Open Government Committee Members,

Please see attached comment letter for Item G4 of tomorrow's (May 2nd, 2018) agenda.

Thank you,

Serena Desai

San Jose Resident District 10

May 1, 2018

Re: Support for Item G4, Beverage Straws Upon Request

Dear Rules and Open Government Committee Members,

I am writing to you in support of Councilmember Khamis' recommendation for Item G4 on the May 2nd, 2018 agenda, Beverage Straws Upon Request.

Each day, more than 500 million plastic straws are used and discarded in the U.S. alone. Plastic straws are not recyclable and are often littered, or caught by the wind, and washed into storm drains that empty into streams, bays, and other waterways. In addition, they are one of the top ten plastic items found on beach and creek clean-ups globally.

At a local level, straws cause water quality issues in our water bodies and threaten sensitive ecosystems (San Francisco Bay and wetland areas) and marine and land animals. As toxins from marine plastic pollution make their way up the food chain, they pose a dangerous threat to humans who consume them and can lead to serious health problems including birth defects, cancer, and learning and growth deficits in children. Many plastics contain chemicals that leach out, especially when exposed to weathering, heat, or UV light.

As of April 2018, there are eight cities that explicitly ban plastic straws (Hollywood, FL, Miami Beach, FL, Fort Myers, FL, Seattle, WA, Santa Cruz, CA, Carmel, CA, Malibu, CA, and Manhattan Beach, CA) and two cities that only allow plastic straws upon request (San Luis Obispo, CA, and Davis, CA). Several cities within the U.S. have explored or are currently exploring a ban on plastic straws. As of March 2018, these include: Treasure Island, FL, Berkeley, CA, Encinitas, CA, and Huntington Beach, CA.

You can demonstrate San Jose's commitment to a sustainable future by voting "yes" for the City Council Priority Setting Session to include the development of a "beverage straws upon request ordinance." By supporting this recommendation, you are enhancing the vibrancy of our city by protecting our watersheds and wildlife, reducing waste, minimizing operating costs of stormwater systems, saving costs to small businesses, and promoting Silicon Valley's leadership as an environmental steward.

I urge you to vote in support of this and thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Serena Desai

Resident of San Jose District 10