

[Eliminating Single-Use Plastic]

Resolution urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to eliminate plastic wrapping, take-out bags, and beverage containers in San Francisco

WHEREAS, According to the San Francisco Bay Keeper, since 2019, 7 trillion pieces of plastic have flowed into the San Francisco Bay every year; and

WHEREAS, According to the EPA, over 26 million tons of petroleum-based plastic end up in U.S. landfills alone each year; and

WHEREAS, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration defines microplastics as scraps of plastic less than five millimeters in length; and

WHEREAS, Plastic that flows into the San Francisco Bay detrimentally harms marine life in their consumption of microplastics, and ultimately, humans. This leads to many harmful health conditions, such as various illnesses, like lung cancer, respiratory issues (asthma), and inflammatory diseases; and

WHEREAS, In an article published in 2025, the University of Mexico researchers found alarmingly high levels of microplastics in human brains, noting that the amount has doubled in the past eight years; and

WHEREAS, A study by “Nature” (website) found that human brains contained plastics from eating out of plastic silverware and drinking out of plastic bottles. Additionally, it was found that plastics were consumed by immune cells, which end up amassing and blocking small blood vessels in the brain; and

WHEREAS, Ocean conservancy is a vital component to sustaining San Francisco’s food supply, regulating the health of ecosystems, and stabilizing atmospheric temperatures; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2019, San Francisco passed The Single-Use Foodware Plastics,
2 Toxics, and Litter Reduction Ordinance, “aimed towards reducing plastic pollution,
3 reducing toxic chemicals in foodware, and protecting public health” which banned all
4 single-use plastic items and mandated all single-use foodware to be compostable with
5 no perfluoroalkoxy (PFAS), and stated that customer dine-in, take-out, or delivery meals
6 must not include single-use plastic food and beverage accessories, and that 10% of all
7 beverages must be served in reusable containers for all San Francisco events serving
8 more than 100 attendees; and

9 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 54 (SB 54), mandates “all single-use packaging and
10 plastic foodware service like cutlery, takeout containers, plates and cups in California be
11 recyclable or compostable by 2032, with a 25% reduction in single-use plastic
12 packaging and food service ware and a 65% recycling rate for these materials”; and

13 WHEREAS, Eliminating plastic packaging in San Francisco aligns with the city’s
14 2025 Climate Action Plan goals, committing to expanding reuse and refill services
15 across the city to meet California’s goals to produce 25% less new single-use plastics
16 and overall reduce total waste generation by 15% by 2030; and

17 WHEREAS, Eliminating plastic packaging in San Francisco aligns with both the
18 City and state plastic reduction goals; and

19 WHEREAS, Eliminating plastic packaging would significantly reduce landfill
20 waste and ocean pollution while lowering carbon emissions and promoting compostable
21 or reusable alternatives; and

1 WHEREAS, Eliminating plastic packaging in San Francisco would also propel the
2 City to move towards a circular economy – a shared vision in California and throughout
3 the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, In May of 2022, following several months of countywide outreach,
5 the City of San Rafael adopted the County of Marin’s Reusable Foodware Model
6 Ordinance. Adoption of this ordinance is aimed at reducing the amount of single-use
7 plastics in our waste streams and our storm drains, creeks, and Bay; and

8 RESOLVED, The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors
9 to eliminate all plastic packaging for the City of San Francisco to protect youth and
10 families from the health consequences of microplastics in food consumption, etc., and
11 be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Youth Commission emphasizes the importance of
13 ocean conservation’s impact on the climate and urges the Mayor and Board of
14 Supervisors to protect the planet the youth will inherit; and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Mayor and Board of Supervisors adopt these
16 recommendations, commit to establishing new goals to effectively eliminate plastic
17 packaging in San Francisco with input from community based organizations, San
18 Francisco Environment, and San Francisco Environmental Commission to understand
19 the pressing urgency that single-use plastics has for youth across San Francisco, and
20 provide it with the appropriate funding and allocation of the budget; and be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco Youth Commission staff are
22 directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the Office of the Mayor, Board of
23 Supervisors, and other elected officials representing San Francisco.