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25 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Plastics Pact released a list of “Problematic and
26 Unnecessary Materials” that pact members should phase out by 2025, which
27 included cutlery, straws, and stirrers; and

28 **WHEREAS**, single-use plastic straws and stirrers, due to their small size,
29 cannot be easily recycled; and

30 **WHEREAS**, plastic ends up in landfills where it can take up to 500 years to
31 decompose and potentially can leak pollutants into the soil and water; and

32 **WHEREAS**, plastic does not readily biodegrade but instead breaks down
33 into smaller pieces that turn into microplastics, which are becoming more prevalent
34 in waterways, wildlife, and humans; and

35 **WHEREAS**, plastics are the most common type of marine debris in our
36 ocean, waterways, and Great Lakes; and

37 **WHEREAS**, many restaurants provide plastic utensils and single-use
38 condiments with takeout meals as a standard practice; and

39 **WHEREAS**, an increasing number of customers opt for restaurant delivery
40 services or takeout and curbside options and may not need plastic utensils; and

41 **WHEREAS**, in 2012, City Council passed Resolution No. 20120816-004,
42 seeking to conserve water by requiring restaurant customers to request water rather
43 than having it provided as standard practice during certain stages of drought; and

44 **WHEREAS**, this shift in practice has likely reduced water waste in the
45 Austin area and the policy offers a useful precedent to address concerns related to
46 single-use plastics; and

47 **WHEREAS**, Austin Resource Recovery sustainability staff and the Office
48 of Sustainability conduct outreach among businesses to encourage sustainable
49 practices and support programs, such as the Green Business Leaders.

50 **NOW, THEREFORE,**

51 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

52 City Council finds that the use of single-use plastic by restaurants, bars, and
53 other commercial food or beverage establishments is detrimental to the
54 environment and strongly encourages those industries to work toward the
55 elimination of single-use plastics.

56 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

57 The City Manager shall implement a targeted strategy to reduce the use of
58 single-use plastic by restaurants, bars, and other commercial food or beverage
59 establishments. This strategy shall discourage establishments from providing
60 plastic utensils, straws, stirrers, single-use condiments, and other single-use plastic
61 items unless the items are specifically requested by the customer and are available
62 as an alternative by the establishment.

63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

64 The City Manager shall conduct conversations with restaurant delivery
65 services and encourage them to add a field to their online platforms that allows a
66 customer to opt into receiving plastic utensils. The City Manager shall report back
67 to City Council on those conversations by December 1, 2022.

68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

69 City Council directs the City Manager to provide public education
70 campaigns to promote this goal in collaboration with interested partners.

71 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

72 City Council directs the City Manager to work with the Austin Restaurant
73 Association and other stakeholders to initiate conversations about opportunities to
74 replace the use of single-use plastics and Styrofoam with biodegradable materials
75 and shall report recommendations back to City Council by February 1, 2023.

76 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

77 The City Manager shall remind City employees of our zero waste goals and
78 the City's policy position discouraging the use of disposable plastic water bottles at
79 City-owned facilities. The City Manager shall review the information contained in
80 "Trash in Creeks" and shall provide a recommendation to Council by December 1,
81 2023, as to whether the City should ban the use and sale of single-use water and
82 soft drink bottles at City-owned facilities and events that take place on City-owned
83 land, except in times of emergency; and

84 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

85 City Council directs the City Manager to invite Visit Austin, Austin
86 Resource Recovery, Austin Water, the Office of Sustainability, and other relevant
87 departments or entities to brainstorm and explore ways to reduce Austin visitors'
88 reliance on disposable plastic water bottles, including the possibility of providing
89 visitors with a reusable water bottle upon arrival to the Austin airport, and report
90 recommendations and next steps back to City Council by December 1, 2022.

91 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2022 **ATTEST:** _____

92 Myrna Rios
93 City Clerk
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