

INTRODUCED: March 25, 2019

A RESOLUTION No. 2019-R014

As Amended

To encourage all City departments and citizens and businesses of the city of Richmond to recycle and decrease the use of single-use plastic products for the purpose of reducing litter and improving the local environment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrons – All Members of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as to form and legality  
by the City Attorney  
\_\_\_\_\_

PUBLIC HEARING: APR 8 2019 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 2-1165 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2015), as amended, the Clean City Commission was established to provide the Council with advice and recommendations concerning programs to reduce litter and improve the local environment in the city of Richmond; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2012-R69-103, adopted July 9, 2012, the Council of the City of Richmond adopted the sustainability plan entitled “RVA Green: A Roadmap to Sustainability,” in an effort to further the sustainability goals of the City, which are to ensure that citizens have the highest quality of life possible while improving the local environment and

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

ADOPTED: SEP 09 2019 REJECTED: \_\_\_\_\_ STRICKEN: \_\_\_\_\_

enhancing economic development and job creation opportunities; and

WHEREAS, “RVA Green: A Roadmap to Sustainability,” identifies objectives that provide for endorsing initiatives that protect and enhance the City’s water resources from pollution and unwise use; and

WHEREAS, according to the Ocean Conservancy, the plastic that most often makes its way into local waterways takes the form of single-use straws, bottles, and balloons that originate as land-based trash; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Richmond believes that a local initiative to encourage all City departments and citizens and businesses of the city of Richmond to recycle and decrease the use of single-use plastic products for the purpose of reducing litter and improving the local environment would be consistent with the recommendations of the Clean City Commission and the City’s adopted sustainability plan; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Richmond believes that it is in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Richmond that the Council encourage all City departments and citizens and businesses of the city of Richmond to recycle and decrease the use of single-use plastic products for the purpose of reducing litter and improving the local environment;

NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:**

That the Council of the City of Richmond hereby encourages all City departments and citizens and businesses of the city of Richmond to recycle and decrease the use of single-use plastic products for the purpose of reducing litter and improving the local environment.

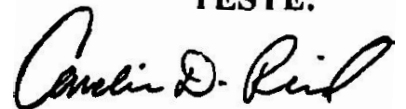
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That the Council hereby encourages all City departments and citizens and businesses of the city of Richmond to implement the following practices for the purpose of supporting the recommendations and recycling initiatives of the Clean City Commission and the City's sustainability plan adopted by Resolution No. 2012-R69-103, adopted July 9, 2012, to reduce waste and pollution:

1. Provide single-use straws only when requested; switch from plastic straws to compostable straws, paper straws, or reusable straws; or refrain from using or offering straws.
2. Commemorate momentous and memorial occasions by tossing birdseed, planting a tree, or installing a commemorative bench, rather than by releasing celebratory balloons.
3. ~~[Provide]~~ Work toward the goal of installing water stations at city ~~[events for the refilling of plastic bottles]~~ event locations in an effort to reduce the number of single-use plastic bottles.
4. ~~[Purchase and use non-plastic items whenever possible]~~ Significantly reduce the total amount of single-use plastics purchased for City use.
5. Encourage the use of reusable bags to decrease plastic bag litter.
6. Install convenient recycling receptacles in such places as may be permitted by law.

**A TRUE COPY:**

**TESTE:**



**City Clerk**



# Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

## Office of the Council Chief of Staff

### Council Ordinance/Resolution Request

**TO** Allen L. Jackson, Richmond City Attorney

**THROUGH** Meghan Brown, Interim Council Chief of Staff *MLB*

**FROM** Joyce L. Davis, Council Policy Analyst *JLD*  
Office of the Council Chief of Staff

**COPY** Parker Agelasto, 5<sup>th</sup> District Councilmember  
Kristen Larson, 4<sup>th</sup> District Councilmember  
Andreas Addison, 1<sup>st</sup> District Councilmember  
Haskell Brown, Deputy City Attorney  
Amy Robins, 5<sup>th</sup> District Liaison  
Aaron Bond, 4<sup>th</sup> District Liaison

**DATE** March 15, 2019

**PAGE/s** 1 of 3

**TITLE** Resolution to Reduce Plastic Pollution and Waste

**RECEIVED**

MAR 15 2019

OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY

This is a request for the drafting of an **Ordinance**  **Resolution**

**REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON**

Councilmembers Parker Agelasto,  
Kristen Larson and Andreas Addison

**SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE**

Education and Human Services

**ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY**

Resolution to encourage departments of the City of Richmond, residents and businesses to engage in specific actions to recycle and decrease the use of single-use plastic products for the purpose of improved waste management and a reduction in plastic pollution and marine debris to protect our land and waterways.

**BACKGROUND**

This Resolution to encourage departments of the City of Richmond, residents and businesses and residents to engage in specific actions to recycle and decrease the use of single-use plastic products for the purpose of improved waste management and a reduction in plastic pollution to protect our land and waterways. This Resolution supports the recommendations and efforts of the Clean City Commissions and its recycling initiatives which consider using options which will not harm the environment.

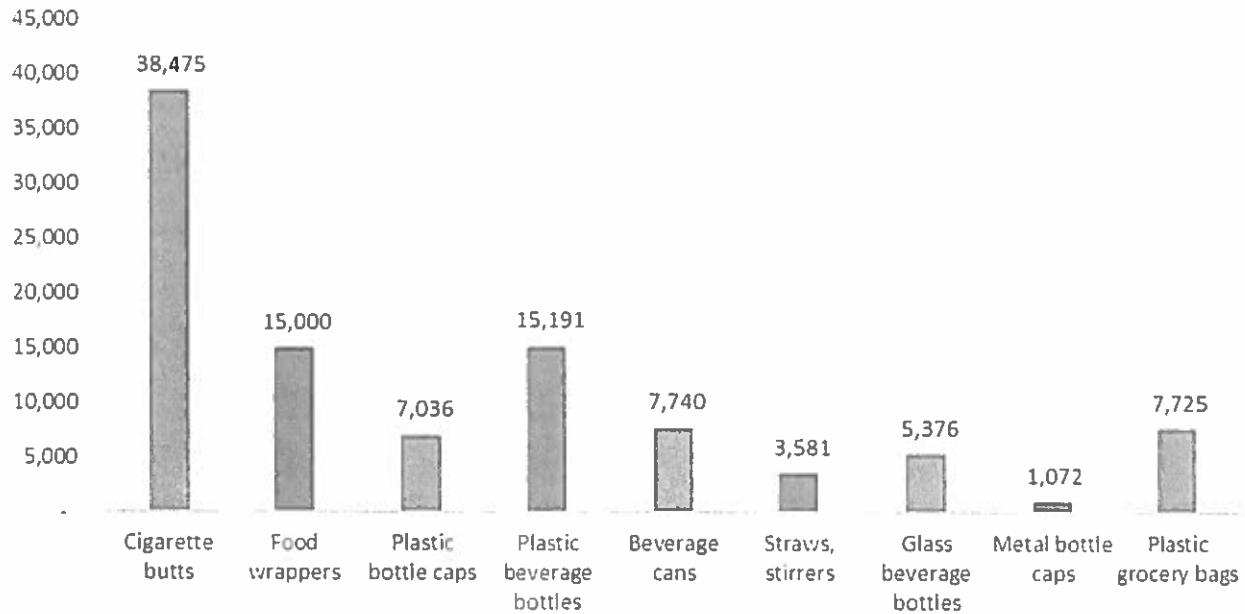
This initiative is consistent with the City of Richmond RVA Green, A Roadmap to Sustainability Plan, which includes as a goal, "to create a healthy urban environment". The plan identifies four objectives as: (1) to protect and enhance Richmond's water resources; (2) enable the Richmond community to use water wisely; (3) improve the City's solid waste system and (4) strive to continuously improve the quality of Richmond's indoor and outdoor air<sup>1</sup>. The plan does not specifically address the use of single use plastic straws, however, does focus as an

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.richmondgov.com/Sustainability/documents/RVAGreen\\_ARoadmapToSustainability.pdf](http://www.richmondgov.com/Sustainability/documents/RVAGreen_ARoadmapToSustainability.pdf), pg. 47

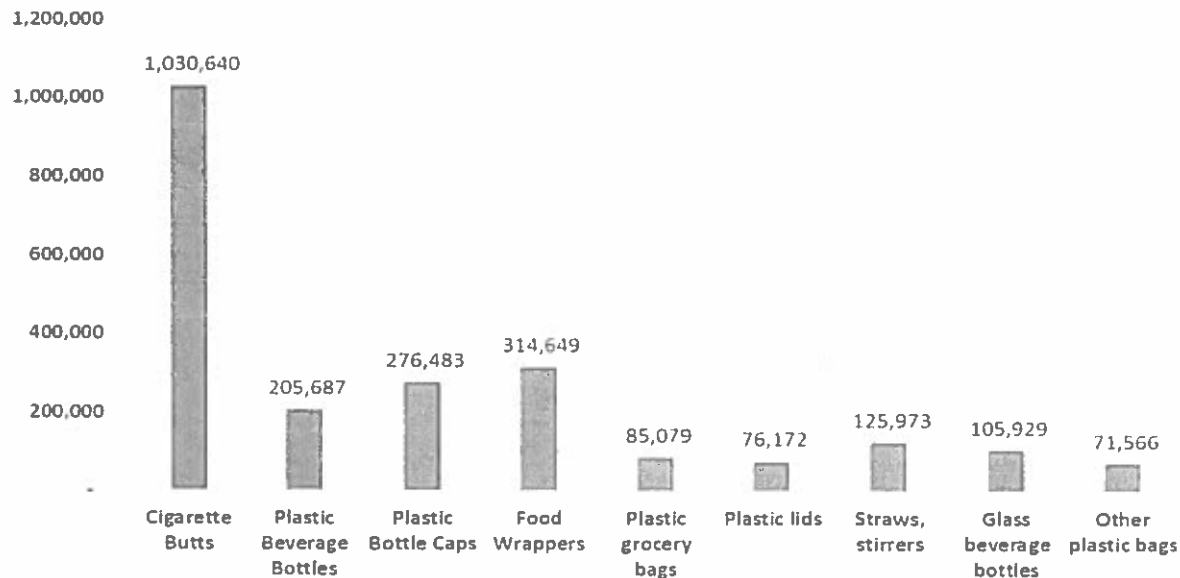
overall goal to prevent, reduce, reuse and recycle solid waste to minimize the amount of waste being sent to the landfill.<sup>2</sup>

According to the Ocean Conservancy, six of the ten top contributors to marine debris are single-use (disposable) plastic products. They include plastic beverage bottles, plastic bottle caps, food wrappers (candy, etc.), plastic grocery and other bags, plastic lids, and plastic straws/stirrers<sup>3</sup>. These items were ranked as a part of a one day cleanup in the International Coastal cleanup for a total of items in the United States and total items in Virginia.

### Top 10 Items Collected in Virginia



### Top 10 Items Collected in the U.S.



<sup>2</sup> [http://www.richmondgov.com/Sustainability/documents/RVAGreen\\_ARoadmapToSustainability.pdf](http://www.richmondgov.com/Sustainability/documents/RVAGreen_ARoadmapToSustainability.pdf), pg. 56

<sup>3</sup> Ocean Conservancy <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2018/06/27/ocean-beach-pollution-plastic-trash/738173002> [https://oceanconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/International-Coastal-Cleanup\\_2017-Report.pdf](https://oceanconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/International-Coastal-Cleanup_2017-Report.pdf), pg. 16-20

According to the National Marine Debris Monitoring Program (NMDMP) a study conducted between 2001 and 2006 by Ocean Conservancy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports, "the most abundant types of marine debris on the U.S. coastline were plastic straws, plastic bottles, balloons, and metal beverage cans".<sup>4</sup> EPA reports, "Plastic is the primary type of debris found in marine and coastal environments and plastics are the most common form of debris ingested and harmful to fish and wildlife. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that about 80% of marine debris originates as land-based trash and the remaining 20% is attributed to at-sea intentional or accidental disposal or loss of goods and waste".<sup>5</sup> Balloons were identified as one of the harmful items to wildlife as they can end up in streams and rivers and ultimately the ocean where endangered marine animals can ingest them or become entangled causing injury and death. The Code of Virginia §29.1-556.1 has provisions which prohibit release within a one-hour period, fifty or more balloons which are made of non-biodegradable material. Violators shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed five dollars per balloon above the limit.

This Resolution encourages the Clean City Commission to continue it's work to raise awareness about recycling and provide waste reduction education to the City's consumers.

The Commission promotes the use of options which will not harm the environment such as a switch from plastic straws to compostable straws which will decompose; paper straws; use of a reusable straw; or opting to go straw less.

Richmond City Council encourages departments of the City of Richmond, residents and businesses to consider and support waste reduction initiatives:

1. Encourage full service restaurants to provide single use plastic straws only when requested by the customer. Residents are encouraged to consider options such as to switch from plastic straws to compostable straws which will decompose; paper straws; use of a reusable straw; or opting to go straw less.
2. Encourage residents to seek alternative celebratory methods that do not include release of balloons and consider other options such as release of bird seeds, tree plantings or park benches.
3. Reduction of water bottles at city held events by offering refillable water stations.
4. Local government agencies should evaluate options for purchase and reduce use of plastic promotional items.
5. Encourage the use of reusable bags to decrease the use of plastic bag litter throughout the city.
6. Install convenient recycling receptacles throughout the city, such as bus transfer stations, designated locations in parks and to allow for businesses and apartment complexes for waste management.

The requested introduction date of this Resolution is March 25, 2019.

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Fiscal Impact	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Budget Amendment Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact	\$	
Attachment/s	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Richmond City Council Ordinance Resolution Request Form, update 3/1/2019 pg. 1

<sup>4</sup> [Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan - NOAA Marine Debris Program](#) pg. 7

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/toxicological-threats-plastic>