

Councillors Calendino & Wang – Single Use Plastics Ban Bylaw

WHEREAS, single use plastic items are a major contributor to environmental degradation through their production and distribution as well as their disposal; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that in Metro Vancouver that well over 1 billion single use items are thrown out every year with a large majority not being recycled and ending up as garbage in the waste stream and in the waterways and oceans, or as litter in our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Provincial Government provided local governments the ability to enact bylaws to reduce single use plastic items and the Federal Government is also considering similar prohibition legislation for 2023 which would include single use cutlery and single use styrofoam cups or other foam take-out food containers; and

WHEREAS, Metro Vancouver, in collaboration with member municipalities, has developed a regional harmonized approach to reduce single use plastic items such as check-out bags, stir sticks and plastic straws, but flexible enough for individual municipalities to develop their own bylaw; and

WHEREAS, several Metro Vancouver municipalities have already enacted such a bylaw banning single use plastic items;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that staff bring forward a report as soon as possible recommending an expedited bylaw process to implement a ban on harmful single use plastic items such as plastic check-out bags, plastic stir stick, plastic straws (other than accessible ones used in hospitals and care homes and for people with disabilities), plastic cutlery, foam cups and possibly foam take-out food containers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bylaw align with other municipalities' bylaws in terms of replacement check out bags and fees associated with replacement or reusable items.

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