

From: [<mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org>]

Subject: Vote "Yes" Feb 20th for Sustainable to-go packaging

I am writing to express my official support to be entered into the public record for the passage of the Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance. Across the country, municipalities are taking direct action to reduce waste, protect the environment, and improve the health of their residents. I consider Saint Paul to be a forward-thinking and productive city, and we hope you will continue that legacy with a "Yes" vote to require reusable, recyclable, or compostable containers at our restaurants.

While lowering waste can seem daunting to businesses and individuals throughout the city, simple changes in our practices can make a big difference for minimizing our impact. The incremental step of reducing food packaging waste will have a tremendous cumulative effect in the long term. As with any sweeping change, we understand there are concerns regarding the transition to sustainable packaging and support creative means of compliance, including support for initial investments, cooperative purchasing, and providing education and support.

Please vote "Yes" on February 20th in favor of the Sustainable To-Go Packaging ordinance amendment update for a more sustainable Saint Paul.

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From: Katie Sih [<mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2019 2:58 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3
Subject: Vote "Yes" Feb 20th for Sustainable to-go packaging

Chris Tolbert,

Dear St. Paul City Council Members ,

Thank you for the service you provide to the members of this community.

I am writing to express my official support to be entered into the public record for the passage of the Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance.

I view this ordinance as the needed first step to making changes in the health of our environment. In addition, I feel a second step after passing the ordinance is required in order to see the full impact of passing a sustainable to-go packaging ordinance; our communities require consistent opportunities at home as well as at restaurants to more easily choose the appropriate means of disposal for each item on site. Some restaurants already offer compostable or recyclable dishware, but offer only one option for disposal --- the garbage can. Improving access to recycling and food scraps/composting at restaurants would help to transform the spirit of the to-go container ordinance into a working model within which all citizens can participate.

Kudos to schools and businesses such as St. Paul Academy that offer all 3 options: composting, recycling, and garbage, in the cafeteria. It is an example of how just a little public education on the topic gets people working together to dispose of items in a healthier way.

The addition of composting services for organic material including food scraps included with the local garbage service at home, or the development of a number of additional local/neighborhood compost sites within a few blocks of home would significantly decrease the amount of material the people of St. Paul put into the landfill garbage. I have an extremely limited yard, so burying compost is not easily done while still maintaining aesthetics of the yard. Citizens who live in apartments or ride the bus instead of driving a car also have very little access to composting for food scraps or containers. It takes 10-15 minutes each way for

me to drive to the Summit Hill Yard Waste area to compost food. Local access to real composting solutions in this urban area would be a fantastic step in reducing waste that could be disposed of by composting.

In the past 2 days I collected the garbage around my home into 3 categories and compared the amounts. Forty percent was recyclable, 30% compostable, and 30% garbage. If other families are anything like mine, reducing what goes in our landfills by half just by adding composting services sounds like a huge step forward in how we dispose of our waste.

Please vote "Yes" on February 20th in favor of the Sustainable To-Go Packaging ordinance amendment update for a more sustainable Saint Paul, and please consider how we can bring universal composting services to our communities.

I sincerely thank you for your time and service.

Katie Sih
Highland Park Resident

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From: Adrienne Johnson [<mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org>]
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2019 11:09 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Vote "Yes" Feb 20th for Sustainable to-go packaging

Kassim Busuri,

Seriously. What is it going to take to get just the small things done for our children's future on this earth?! We can make this sustainable, small change in order to prevent big, negative impacts on our ground water and overall health.

I am writing to express my official support to be entered into the public record for the passage of the Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance. Across the country, municipalities are taking direct action to reduce waste, protect the environment, and improve the health of their residents. I consider Saint Paul to be a forward-thinking and productive city, and we hope you will continue that legacy with a "Yes" vote to require reusable, recyclable, or compostable containers at our restaurants.

While lowering waste can seem daunting to businesses and individuals throughout the city, simple changes in our practices can make a big difference for minimizing our impact. The incremental step of reducing food packaging waste will have a tremendous cumulative effect in the long term. As with any sweeping change, we understand there are concerns regarding the transition to sustainable packaging and support creative means of compliance, including support for initial investments, cooperative purchasing, and providing education and support.

Please vote "Yes" on February 20th in favor of the Sustainable To-Go Packaging ordinance amendment update for a more sustainable Saint Paul.

Thank you,
Adrienne Johnson

Adrienne Johnson
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From: Scott Van [<mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 11:18 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3
Subject: Vote "NO!!" Feb 20th for Sustainable to-go packaging

Chris Tolbert,

I am writing to encourage all council members to vote "No" for this ordinance. I work for Van Paper Company, a 103 year old distributor in St. Paul that sells all types of carryout items. This ordinance ignores some important changes that have occurred in the last year. First, more research needs to be done on PFAS, the binding agent in fiber containers. California is looking at possibly banning items made with PFAS. Second, with China no longer taking most of our recycled products, the market is totally different now. Third, there is not enough industry capacity for many paper and fiber items right now. Two weeks ago we were told by Solo Cup that we could not take any new business for paper cups--both hot and cold cups. And fourth, we are still not able to compost curbside yet in most communities. That needs to happen before any ordinances or laws are passed. Thank you!

Scott Van
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Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2019 7:23 AM
Subject: Vote Yes for Sustainable To-Go Packaging

We know Saint Paul is a city that cares about the health of residents and our environment. One small yet impactful step the City can take is to pass the Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance. Across the country, municipalities are taking direct action to reduce waste, protect the environment, and improve the health of their residents. Please vote "Yes" to require reusable, recyclable, or compostable containers at our restaurants.

While lowering waste can seem daunting to businesses and individuals throughout the city, simple changes in our practices can make a big difference for minimizing our impact. The incremental step of reducing food packaging waste will have a tremendous cumulative effect in the long term. It will reduce the creation of plastics and styrofoam. It will reduce the amount of trash going to landfills, or ending up on our streets and in our waters.

We encourage you to build equity into this ordinance and consider how to make the transition possible for all businesses. Possibilities include: financial support for initial investments especially for small businesses and minority and women owned business, cooperative purchasing, along with educational support.

Please vote "Yes" on February 20th in favor of the Sustainable To-Go Packaging ordinance amendment update for a more sustainable Saint Paul.

Thank you!
Sincerely,

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Mrs. Wendi Chen
668 Woodlawn Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55116

Ms. Rachel Wolf
1850 Summit Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55105

Ms. Carolyn Patterson
1614 Scheffer Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55116

Mrs. Alison Weinlaeder
1785 Palace Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55105

Ms. Mary Lutz
1912 Ford Pkwy Apt 8
Saint Paul, MN 55116

Mr. Eldon Koch
1855 Yorkshire Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55116

Miss Maylelt Gallardo Zuniga
514 Prior Ave N Apt 18
Saint Paul, MN 55104

Mrs. Anna Tracy
2250 Luther Pl Apt 109
Saint Paul, MN 55108

Ms. Molly Foster
2164 Eleanor Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55116

Ms. Diane Glorvigen
2212 Bayard Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55116

Mr. John McGowan
515 South Lexington Parkway, Apt 505
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Rev. Harry Bury
60 Mississippi River Blvd S Apt 318
Saint Paul, MN 55105

Ms. Monica Maloney
1181 Edgcumbe road, 1609
Saint Paul, MN 55105

Ms. Gerry Fuller
1415 Osceola Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55105

Ms. Amelia Shoptaugh
888 Thomas Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55104

Dr. David Anderson
2022 Summit Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55105

Mr. Murray Johnson
1394 Raymond Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55108

Mr. Philip Rampi
2150 Jefferson Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55105

Mr. Thomas Lauria
2040 Itasca Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55116

Mr. Mike McDonald
2002 Pinehurst Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55116

Ms. Sharon McCord
2285 Stewart Ave Apt 1403
Saint Paul, MN 55116

Mrs. Ashley Newby
2096 Randolph Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55105

Ms. Stephanie Summers
743 Parkview Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55117

Ms. Kelly Schwab
1016 Chatsworth St N
Saint Paul, MN 55103

Ms. Diane Klinefelter
1011 Iowa Ave W
Saint Paul, MN 55117

Ms. Janet Schultz
66 Nelson St
Saint Paul, MN 55119

Mrs. Sophia Johnson
2190 Bush Ave E
Saint Paul, MN 55119

Ms. Marjorie Toensing
927 Mound St
Saint Paul, MN 55106

Ms. Karla Ladwig
2226 Marillac Ln
Saint Paul, MN 55119

Mr. John Mckenzie
1671 Beech St
Saint Paul, MN 55106

Mr. John Kniprath
1580 McLean Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55106

From: Elizabeth Wehrwein (albanyskye@mac.com) Sent You a Personal Message
[\[mailto:automail@knowwho.com\]](mailto:automail@knowwho.com)

Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 9:07 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4

Subject: Vote Yes for Sustainable To-Go Packaging

Dear Ms. Mitra Jalali Nelson,

I'm very concerned about the real cost of the waste we generate, and given the difficulties of truly recycling plastic, I want to voice a strong commitment to getting all levels of government to address how we can reduce and eventually eliminate plastics from our environmental landscape. I understand some may wish to leave this decision to business, but given the incredible and disasterous waste that impacts our world, I believe that government needs to take a more aggressive stance. Thank you.

We know Saint Paul is a city that cares about the health of residents and our environment. One small yet impactful step the City can take is to pass the Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance. Across the country, municipalities are taking direct action to reduce waste, protect the environment, and improve the health of their residents. Please vote "Yes" to require reusable, recyclable, or compostable containers at our restaurants.

While lowering waste can seem daunting to businesses and individuals throughout the city, simple changes in our practices can make a big difference for minimizing our impact. The incremental step of reducing food packaging waste will have a tremendous cumulative effect in the long term. It will reduce the creation of plastics and styrofoam. It will reduce the amount of trash going to landfills, or ending up on our streets and in our waters.

We encourage you to build equity into this ordinance and consider how to make the transition possible for all businesses. Possibilities include: financial support for initial investments especially for small businesses and minority and women owned business, cooperative purchasing, along with educational support.

Please vote "Yes" on February 20th in favor of the Sustainable To-Go Packaging ordinance amendment update for a more sustainable Saint Paul.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Ms. Elizabeth Wehrwein
1403 Albany Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55108

From: bstensonmahoney [<mailto:bstensonmahoney@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 6:14 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4
Subject: 2 items

Hello,

I wish to express

1. A request that you vote @ the 2/20 council meeting for restaurants to use sustainable to-go containers. It would be better if it also included service stations as well. We all need to do our part.

2. Feedback: The decision to not plow before the storm on Tues was very upsetting & caused unsafe side street's. I heard many complaints & comments that St Paul is the worst when it comes to plowing.

Thank you for your time & service.

Maureen Mahoney & Brad Stenson
576 Clifford St.

From: Lisa McGuire [<mailto:lmcguire@umn.edu>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 4:25 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4
Subject: February 20 vote on reusable/recyclable/compostable containers

Hi Ms. Nelson,

I'm a constituent and I'm writing today to urge you to vote yes on February 20 for the ordinance that requires restaurants and businesses to use recyclable, compostable, or reusable containers. I'm incredibly concerned about the impacts of global warming and how society has built a culture of convenience around the use of plastic. Much of which ends up in landfills for years, or gets burned in incinerators, or ends up in our waterways and city streets.

I would love to see St. Paul allow residents to bring their own containers to restaurants and other food-service businesses to bring home meals and/or leftovers.

This issue is very important to me personally and working towards building an equitable playing field via this ordinance seems like a fair solution that can help St. Paul contribute to a culture of less waste.

Sincerely,
Lisa McGuire
808 Berry St., #434
St. Paul, MN 55114

From: Allison Hoffman [<mailto:allison.hoffman.mn@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 7:32 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3
Subject: sustainable food containers St. Paul

Hello,

I am writing to urge you to vote yes on the ordinance which would transition St. Paul establishments away from styrofoam and other non-recyclable/non-compostable options. It makes sense to start using more environmentally friendly options.

Thank you!
Allison Hoffman
1936 Summit Avenue

From: Tom Peterson [<mailto:tomphealtharch@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2019 2:28 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Cleaner Saint Paul

The Saint Paul City Council will be voting on February 20th on an ordinance which will require restaurants and businesses to provide to-go containers that are reusable, recyclable or compostable, (I hope this includes making Target offer paper bags!). While some may say this will cause a disadvantage,

the responsible business already do something. I carry my own bags, never take plastic if I can, and take a bag with me whenever I'm outdoors to pick up trash.

This ordinance will make St Paul a more livable city.

Please vote 'Yes' on this.

Thank you,
Tom Peterson
625 Hillwood Court
Saint Paul, MN 55119

From: Barbara Sellers [<mailto:barbarasellers1947@msn.com>]
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2019 3:21 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3
Subject: Sustainable Go-To Containers

Dear Council Member Tolbert:

Please vote YES for sustainable go-to containers.

Thank you!

Barbara S. Sellers
1875 Juliet Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

Sandra Marone (Ward 6 constituent) is opposed to the TO GO changes.

Mary Nealey (Ward 6 constituent) is opposed to the TO GO changes.

Yvonne @ 1132 E Magnolia is opposed to the TO GO changes.

Steve @ 2027 California Ave E is IN FAVOR of TO GO packaging.

Amelia Zamora (a Ward 6 constituent) opposed the TO GO Packaging!

Tom Gerlock (2151 Idaho Ave East) opposes the TO GO Ordinance. It gives all the breaks to hospitals and big organizations and it drives the little guys out of business.

Kim Marks (953 Jenks Ave) would like CM Busuri to oppose the TO GO ordinance. "It's ridiculous! They've shoved way too much down our throats already. Why don't they leave it to be a city vote?"

Pat Blaskowski (1605 Darlene Street) opposes the TO GO Ordinance because it is too cost prohibitive for small businesses. She would like the city to come up with more creative ideas such as; charging a small fee to customers that want the recyclable To Go containers and/or having customers bring in their own To Go container.

Bev Sellie is in FAVOR of the To Go Ordinance.

John Crivits (ward 6 constituent) is in favor of the new TO GO Ordinance. "No more stryofoam!"

Steven Patrin, 2027 California Avenue East, is fully in favor of To Go recycling. He feels that since businesses get a tax break, they should also be responsible for doing their part for the environment. He mentioned a Ramsey county agency called Biz Recycling that helps businesses with recycling issues and give grants to get businesses up to speed. <http://www.bizrecycling.com/>

Joy Nelson (Phalen area, Ward 6 constituent) is FOR the To Go ordinance.

Jean Kachel @ 1881 Mechanic Avenue, unit #110 called to say she is AGAINST changes in TO GO Ordinance because it will hurt small businesses.

Lionel Smith @ 1556 Dieter Street, St Paul 55106 is OPPOSED to the TO GO Packaging changes.

Roger Hallman @ 1281 Payne Avenue is AGAINST the TO GO Ordinance because it will drive small restaurants out of business.

Katherine Goffins @ 755 Montana Ave E is in support of the changes in TO GO packaging. Her husband, Steve Adams is also in support of TO GO packaging.

Sandra Hall called in opposition of the to go packaging ordinance. It's way over the top for the city to do; it is really exasperating normal people.

Karen Loe from 1862 E Orange Avenue is AGAINST the To Go Packaging changes because it is against the "little guy" smaller restaraunts.

Mandating compostable packaging without an efficient compost program doesn't make a ton of sense.

The City of Saint Paul (or Ramsey County) should have first started with a municipal compost program.

I sincerely commend the team for a thoughtful approach towards implementation in terms of outreach both from the council and DSI.

However, the problem we're trying to address is sustainability and minimizing single-use consumer plastics.

It is an imprudent approach to apply downward pressure from local government narrowly on our business community.

Again, starting with improving our compost system would've been a prudent first step towards a common-good outcome.

Dillon Donnelly
Saint Paul

Hello,

My name is Meg Duhr and I am a resident of 223 Colborne Street, St. Paul.

I am writing to voice my strong support of a city wide ban on plastic, styrofoam, and other non-compostable takeout containers for restaurants and delis. The earth is a finite place and it is under severe stress due to humankind's wasteful practices. We need to do everything we can to limit our impact. This is an easy win and a total no-brainer.

The only reason styrofoam containers are "cheaper" is because their true costs are never paid by consumers or restaurant owners. It's our planet that deals with the costs of styrofoam. For the next 5,000 years.

Sincerely,
Meg Duhr

PS--I also believe that climate change is the greatest threat our city and its residents faces. Please consider adopting a resolution in support of the Green New Deal. It is the only proposal that actually rises to the scale of the climate crisis.

Dear Saint Paul city council,

As a Saint Paul resident, a parent, an educator, and someone who cares about the future of our city and the health of Saint Paul residents, I am in favor of the sustainable to-go packaging ordinance.

Please work together to see this policy through.

thank you,

Christie Manning
Hague Avenue/Union Park

From: Heidi Schallberg [<mailto:heidils@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 10:13 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3
Subject: support for sustainable to go packaging

Council Member Tolbert,

Please support the sustainable to go packaging ordinance before the Council. I started composting at home a couple of years ago thanks to the handy Mac Grove organics recycling drop-off site not far from where I live in Highland. Composting has made me much more aware of the packaging for what I buy, whether it's from the grocery store or a restaurant. I have an organics recycling station at work too (along with mixed recycling), and I frequently go out for lunch in downtown St. Paul. I cringe when I get styrofoam or black plastic containers from some of the skyway restaurants and have stopped going to those places as much because of the materials I can't recycle or compost the containers. Other businesses in St. Paul have made the move to these types of containers, and at least one, Salut, found its garbage bill went down when they started composting. This is doable and necessary.

St. Paul really needs this requirement to move us toward being a more sustainable city. I look forward to the Council moving the city forward by adopting this ordinance and ask for your support.

Thanks,
Heidi Schallberg
706 MRB #204
55116

Hello,

I hope you'll be voting in favor of the Sustainable packaging ordinance. As Minnesotans, we have this amazing environment that we enjoy, and this is a small change we can easily make to eliminate an unnecessary source of trash.

We've got WestRock paper recycling in our own backyard, so why not support local jobs and reuse, rather than the foreign petroleum industry?

There are so many alternatives businesses can choose from, there's going to be a price-point that works for a suitable carton. I also think it's sad that a company like Cossetta's, who has benefited from St Paul taxpayer dollars, would take a stance against this ordinance. Instead of leading the way, they want to remain foolishly stuck in the past. It's time to stop externalizing costs and do what's right, by taking one step toward reducing garbage.

Leah Gannon
432 Victoria St S
St Paul MN 55102

Dear City council,
I strongly support this ordinance.
Jim Harkness

Dear St. Paul City Council,

I, Susan Sochacki, support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable St. Paul.

Thank you!
Susan Sochacki
1363 Blair Avenue

Greetings,

I wanted to voice my concern for this issue and loudly express my wife and I's support for the so-called 'green to go' ordinance. I'm appalled that there've been delays and saddened that it seems to be traceable to a bully businessman who doesn't live in St Paul (Dave Cossetta).

Please let me know if there is anything else we can do to help move this further.

Thanks,
Matt and Amy Olson
1619 Van Buren Ave
St Paul MN

Hello,

I will unfortunately be out of town during the vote regarding earth-friendly restaurant packaging. I was very disappointed that the council voted "no" last time. I understand Minneapolis has such an ordinance and I think this is really past due in St. Paul. It is easier to have an across-the-board rule than to require citizens to contact each business individually- the responsibility really should be on the companies, not the consumers. I try very hard in my life to be zero waste and it is a big challenge when municipalities don't support this. I understand the biggest complaints (from Cossetta's and from Hmong Marketplace) were about cost. I understand cost is a big deal but businesses could encourage patrons to bring in their own containers from home. Also I think the cost of trashing our Earth is higher long term than the cost of buying appropriate containers. I would strongly urge all of you to vote "yes". Thank you for your time.

Anna Norstedt (St. Paul resident W2 P4)

Dear St. Paul City Council,
I strongly support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. Please vote yes [on March 6th](#) for a more sustainable St. Paul.

David Rudolph
1363 Blair Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104

Dear Saint Paul City Council,

I Jennifer Adams support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. We cannot afford to create more plastic and styrofoam, which depletes essential natural resources and contributes to waste that often ends up in waterways and oceans. We need to make this change to protect our environment, and consumers are ready.

Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul.
Thank you!

Jennifer Adams
1200 27th Ave NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Dear St. Paul City Council Members,

My name is Victoria Downey and I am an avid supporter of environmental sustainability. In addition to acting as the Co-Chair of the Sustainability Committee at the college where I teach, I am also been a member of the Hamline Midway Environment Committee. Over the past few years report after report released by various federal and international agencies have included damning information about the future of our state, country and world in light of anthropogenic climate change and gross environmental degradation. The City of St. Paul now has an opportunity to be on the right side of history and to join as a leader in supporting the implementation of sustainable to-go packaging at our local businesses. The current tax arrangement both in Ramsey County and statewide supports reduction in waste destined for the trash, and we have programs in place to help businesses convert to sustainable packaging. I urge you to look beyond the calls by isolated, environmentally irresponsible businesses in our community and to instead listen to the countless citizens who are calling for this change. As both Minneapolis and St. Louis Park have already implemented similar regulations, businesses have plenty of examples in our area of successes and how best to make the switch.

For the future of our city, our state, and our planet, I implore you to vote YES on the sustainable to-go packaging ordinance on March 6th.

Thank you,
Victoria Downey
865 North Howell St.
St. Paul

Dear Saint Paul City Council,

I, Carol Arney, support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul.

I live at Episcopal Homes at 1840 University Avenue W. Across the street is Arby's, and one block down is Wendy's. Every time I walk around the block I pick up litter that is left from people who use our streets as their personal dump! Let's show we care and start by passing this ordinance.

Thank you!
Carol Arney
1840 University Avenue West, #104
St. Paul, MN 55104

Dear Saint Paul City Council,

My name is Kyle Samejima and I support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul. We have to take immediate and bold action to reduce our impact on the environment and it's appropriate that businesses do their part. A styrofoam ban in Minneapolis resulted in a remarkable reduction of styrofoam in Lake Hiawatha - a lake that has been closely studied for contamination over a period of three years.

--

Kyle Samejima
3539 Garfield Ave
Minneapolis MN 55408

From: Grace Tangjerd Schmitt [<mailto:grace.tangjerdshmitt@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 9:27 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: Harr, Stephanie (CI-StPaul) <Stephanie.Harr@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: proposed ordinance mandating acceptable "to-go" containers

Good Morning, Councilmember Prince:

I wish to express my strong opposition to the proposed ordinance mandating what type of "to-go" containers the restaurants in our City can use.

Two reasons:

1. I cannot find evidence that it is non-biodegradable take-out packaging that is the primary cause of "filling up our landfills." Is non-biodegradable take-out packaging more of a problem than single-use medical supplies? Or, more of a problem than disposable diapers? Or, more of a problem than the plastic bags used to bag garbage?
2. This proposed ordinance would be yet another mandate imposed by the City Council on our local businesses - both new and established businesses. It is counter to the claim on St. Paul's website that St. Paul is "Open for Business" and that the City will help businesses thrive.

Let's use education rather than regulation to change our collective use of landfills. Businesses are not the enemy. Business is an essential component of the City's tax-base. Please stop micro-managing businesses. In this case, let the customer decide whether or not to patronize a restaurant based on the type of take-out packaging the restaurant uses.

Thank you for your attention.

Grace Schmitt
1172 South Winthrop Street
St. Paul, MN 55119

Dear Saint Paul City Council, I, Jaclyn Schwartz, support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul.
Thank you.

Jaclyn Schwartz
1232 Marshall Ave apt 1
St Paul, MN 55104

Dear Saint Paul City Council:

I, Michael Dahl, support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul.

Thank you.
Michael Dahl
1128 Raymond Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

Dear Saint Paul City Council,

I, Kevin Gust, support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul.

Thank you,

Kevin Gust
1759 Princeton Ave
St. Paul, MN 55105

Dear Saint Paul City Council,

I Leslie Brandt support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul.

Thank you.

Leslie Brandt
1650 Juno Ave.

Our environment is drowning in plastic. But there's something you can do on March 6 to improve the situation now and for generations to come. Please vote yes on March 6th to support the Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance for recyclable and compostable packaging. Thanks for voting for a more sustainable Saint Paul.

Marcia Adair
1889 Berkeley Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105

Dear Saint Paul City Council,

I Anna Morawiecki support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul.

Thank you,
Anna Morawiecki
1615 Watson, St Paul, MN 55116

Dear Saint Paul City Council,

I, Brianna Heggeseeth, support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul.
Thank you.

Brianna Heggeseeth
1844 Portland Ave, St Paul, MN 55104

Dear Saint Paul City Council,

I support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul.

Thank you.
Jessica Tritsch
1489 Sargent Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55105

Dear Saint Paul City Council,

I, Andrea Lukas, support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul.

Thank you,
Andrea Lukas
672 Asbury Street Saint Paul, MN 55104

Dear Saint Paul City Council, I, Melissa Partin, support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging.

Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul.

Thank you.

Melissa Partin
1943 Princeton Avenue
ST Paul MN 55105

Dear Saint Paul City Council,

I support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. I think it is vital for the future of our environment that we do everything we can to eliminate waste. Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul.

Thank you.

Leslie Partin
1264 Hague Ave
St Paul, MN

Dear Saint Paul City Council,

I, Jennifer Collins, support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul. We lived for a time in San Francisco and I was impressed by their ban on plastic bags, foam food containers, and composting initiatives. I would love to see our city do more to protect our lovely environment.

I would also like to ask for consideration or discussion of waste/recycle bins at bus stops in particular the one at Randolph and Edgecomb. Many people going to and from The bus stop litter in my yard and I think if appropriate bins were available they would be less likely to do so.

Thank you.

Jenn Collins

Jennifer Collins
1177 Randolph Avenue
Saint Paul Mn 55105

From: Gail & Jerry Holcomb [<mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org>]

Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2019 6:28 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3

Subject: Vote "Yes" March 6th for Sustainable to-go packaging

Chris Tolbert,

I often ask restaurants for take-out and have no idea how to judge if containers are recyclable. I buy take-out from Lund's and have no idea what I can and cannot do with the containers. Please just pass a clear ordinance and help us all do the right thing.

The Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance should be passed promptly with no nit-picking and hassling. Just do it.

Thanks,

Jerry and Gail

Gail & Jerry Holcomb
gailkate@comcast.net

1411 Highland Pkwy
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55116

From: Brian C Martinson [<mailto:brian.c.martinson@gmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2019 10:47 AM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4; #CI-StPaul_Ward1; #CI-StPaul_Ward2; #CI-StPaul_Ward3; #CI-StPaul_Ward5; #CI-StPaul_Ward6; #CI-StPaul_Ward7

Subject: Please vote in support of compostable to-go packaging!

Dear City Councilors,

I support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. This is a simple and reasonable policy our City should be supporting as part of efforts to be live in more environmentally sustainable ways.

Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul.

Thanks for all you do for our City!

Brian C. Martinson, PhD
1943 Princeton Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55105

Dear Saint Paul City Council,

I, Karen Solas, support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul!

Thank you.

Karen Solas
1133 Iowa Ave W, St Paul, MN 55108

Dear City Council Members,

I support your efforts to encourage local restaurants to have compostable or recyclable to-go containers. I will be more likely to patronize businesses that do so.

Thank you!
Meghan Maresh
St. Paul resident

Dear Saint Paul City Council:

We, Phil and Sarah Craig, support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Sarah Craig
2045 Juliet Avenue
St Paul, 55105

Dear Saint Paul City Council, I, Taylor Gross, support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul.

Thank you,

Taylor Gross
111 Kellogg Blvd E Apt 1410
Saint Paul, MN 55101

It was news to me that black plastic doesn't recycle in St. Paul. I would like to ask you to please support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging when it comes up on March 6th. Thanks very much!

Nate Solas
Ward 5

Dear Saint Paul City Council, I Rachel Manz support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul.
Thank you.

Rachel Manz
877 Howell Street North
St. Paul MN, 55104

Hello,

I live in Ward 5 on Iglehart Avenue. I am strongly in favor of sustainable packaging. It makes me more likely to order takeout. I hate the Styrofoam packaging because it is poisonous to the earth and who knows what chemicals leach into the food, especially when people re-heat the food in the microwave. Please catch up with our younger twin city and and pass this small step toward saving our environment. The council has postponed action for too long.

Rob Ramer

Dear Saint Paul City Council,
I, Jenna Bendel, support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul.
Thank you.

Jenna Bendel
498 Dayton Ave, Unit 6,
St. Paul, MN 55102

From: Tanya Refshauge [<mailto:info@sq.actionnetwork.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 7:51 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3
Subject: Vote "Yes" March 6th for Sustainable to-go packaging

Chris Tolbert,

Council Member, Chris Tolbert: let's not continue to lag behind Minneapolis and other municipalities! Can we please get this done, now?

Please consider this my official public comment, to be entered into the official public record, of support for the passage of the "Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance."

When our children ask "Why did it take you so long," how will we answer? Will we stutter and cite business owner opposition? Will we try to explain the economics of tax structure? Or, will we stand proudly because we seized the opportunity to do what they expect of us, in 2019, and not wait any longer?

Change it hard- I get it. Human behavior favors consistency. And I argue the concerns raised can be mitigated, managed, and in some cases eliminated. There are people and organizations ready to support everyone through this change.

I ask you to vote "Yes"- for our children, for our environment, for the reputation of Saint Paul - to require reusable, recyclable, or compostable containers at our restaurants.

Tanya Refshauge
tretail@comcast.net
2176 Highland Pkwy.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55116

Dear Saint Paul City Council,
I, Faith Clark, support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul.

Thank you,
Faith Clark
1055 Saint Paul Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55116

From: Sustain Ward 3 [<mailto:info@sustainward3.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 12:08 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3

Cc: McMahon, Melanie (CI-StPaul)

Subject: Sustainable To Go

Council Member Tolbert and the Saint Paul City Council,

On behalf of the members of Sustain Ward 3 I urge you to vote affirmatively on Ordinance 17-29 (Sustainable To-Go Containers).

This ordinance - especially with the planned advocacy, education, and extended implementation over the next two years is a reasonable transition for businesses of all sizes to convert to compostable containers. Saint Paul is in a pivotal position to affect both its and the State of Minnesota's future. By reducing waste and encouraging programs such as this ordinance - the City of Saint Paul can encourage its businesses, residents, and visitors to begin to conserve and protect our resources in our daily lives and work and act as an agent of change for the rest of the state.

The nearly two-year extended period of implementation is an important addition to this ordinance. Economic sustainability in our city depends on businesses of all sizes and especially small locally owned businesses. However, this is not a one-way street and these businesses need to take responsibility and be active participants. While some of these businesses may have a tougher time converting their models towards sustainability, it is important that we continue to support them. But they also need to conform to this new standard. Utilizing the grant programs available and the two-year implementation should allow for that transition.

Thank you for your consideration of this ordinance and again - Sustain Ward 3 urges you to vote for its adoption.

Sincerely,
Robert Wales
Chair, Sustain Ward 3
1727 Race St
Saint Paul, MN 55116

Please vote yes in favor of sustainable to-go containers, for the amendment update, and for a more sustainable Saint Paul!

Thank you,
Erica Wacker
Mac Groveland

Please vote yes in favor of sustainable to-go containers, for the amendment update, and for a more sustainable Saint Paul! As a consumer I will be willing to pay 10 cents or more added to my dinner meal to have recyclable and/or sustainable containers.

Thank you.

Kelly A. deRosier

I ask for your support of the to-go containers for St Paul to help sustain our environment and to encourage healthy lifestyles that improve the life of all people and our beautiful mother earth!

Thank you, Kate Meyer

From: Alex Cook [<mailto:alexbcook@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2019 9:18 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Disposable containers

Dear Ms. Noecker,

I am a Ward 2 resident and am writing to express my support for the ban on non-compostable containers. PLEASE vote to enforce this ban. Otherwise we will continue to pollute the planet into perpetuity.

Regards,
Alex Cook
889 Fairmount Ave, St Paul, MN 55105

Hello,

I am a resident of Hamline Midway neighborhood. As a working mom with a small child (who is a little too energetic for most restaurants), I would love to more frequently patronize St. Paul restaurants' take-out options. But I avoid take-out from restaurants that use non-recyclable and non-biodegradable to-go containers. Sadly this includes many St. Paul restaurants I really enjoy! If this ordinance passes, I will have a lot more options for takeout that don't come with a side of guilt.

I hope you will vote yes in favor of sustainable to-go containers, for the amendment update, and for a more sustainable Saint Paul!

Thank you,
Miriam Friesen
1676 Hubbard Ave, St. Paul

From: Lea Herrington [<mailto:leaherrington@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, March 03, 2019 6:45 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3
Subject: Vote "Yes" to Sustainable Packaging

Good Morning Council Member Tolbert,
I live in Ward 3, and my fiancé and I are strong supporter of saying "yes" to sustainable packaging. When I worked in product development in NY and Germany, it was shocking to learn that incredible safe alternatives to styrofoam and plastic have been developed, but are not being implemented until "the public demands it".

Regarding the upcoming vote on March 6th, please vote YES on a sustainable to-go packaging ordinance.

Many Thanks in Advance,
Lea Herrington and Paschal O'Rourke
1873 Saint Clair Avenue

From: Joseph Finley [<mailto:jmfwriter1157@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 8:32 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Plastics Ordinance Thoughts

Hello, Jane. Joe Finley here. I am retired from law practice now, but still keep in touch with David Cossetta, a much beloved former client. I have watched the black plastic ordinance proceed and am very opposed to it IN ITS PRESENT FORM. I strongly favor recycling, but even moreso I favor fair play and equality under the law. The black plastics ordinance, though premised on a good intention, is in its discriminatory application one of the worst ordinances I have ever seen. It is an attack on smaller business which have no suitable alternative. My thoughts, which I sent to David after he and I talked last Friday, are set forth below. You needn't respond. With your background, I know you will appreciate the nature of my thoughts, which go to legal philosophy. I just hope you will keep in mind that we are not just a nation of laws—we are a nation of reasonable laws based on equal and uniform treatment.
Thanks, Joe Finley

Begin forwarded message:

From: Joseph Finley <jmfwriter1157@gmail.com>
Subject: Ordinance Thoughts
Date: March 1, 2019 at 4:59:40 PM CST
To: David Cossetta

David, here are the thoughts I discussed with you by telephone this afternoon. I am a life-long citizen of St. Paul and **strongly oppose** the current black plastics and styrofoam ban proposal on the grounds of its **fundamental unfairness**. My City is much better than this Ordinance, I hope. You may share my thoughts with Councilpersons if you like.

It is a fundamental principle of the US Constitution (contained in the 14th Amendment) is that no municipality shall deny any person "the equal protection of the laws." The Minnesota Constitution embodies the same principle, requiring "uniformity" in the application of laws. The essence of these protections is "fundamental fairness" applied across the spectrum of all persons. Both Constitutions also make it wrong for a municipality to give certain persons valuable "privileges and immunities" while denying those same privileges and immunities to other persons. These legal principles are the bedrock of a fair, non-discriminatory society. All City Councilpersons understand them; they need not be lawyers.

A ban on black plastic, styrofoam and such, **if applied to equally and uniformly to all business that contribute meaningfully to the City of St. Paul's waste stream**, would be just fine under the US and Minnesota Constitutions—as equal and uniform in its application. I would be in favor of such an ordinance.

A discriminatory ban on black plastic and styrofoam that targets only certain City businesses, however, while exempting many other City businesses, for no apparent reason other than economic convenience of those exempted, is questionable—it is neither equal nor uniform in its application, and confers special privileges and immunities upon some at the expense of others.

A discriminatory ban black plastic and styrofoam that uniquely imposes a severe financial penalty upon small and family-owned businesses, while uniquely exempting large, resources-rich businesses from any financial penalty (again for no apparent reason other than economic convenience of the wealthy businesses), goes far beyond questionable—it is a purposeful rejection of basic Constitutional principles, turning upside down the rules of fair play and non-discrimination upon which our society is built. Such a targeted attack on smaller businesses—even if well-intentioned by its proponents—is far too unequal and non-uniform in application, and it wrongfully grants highly-valuable, special privileges and immunities to the wealthy.

Environmental protection is a very desirable end; we are all for it. I know you do whatever you can to advance environmental protection, Dave. But the regulatory path taken must be fair and uniform. Why would a City Council, one ostensibly committed to fair play and equal protection—one which purports to administer a City that is a great place to do business—even want to go down the tainted path of such a discriminatory Ordinance?

As a practical matter, the problem with banning black plastic and styrofoam is that there are similarly-priced alternatives, and no alternatives whatsoever for certain functions (such as containing hot sauce). A broad-based ban, applying equally to all users, would eventually force the market to adjust, making fairly priced alternatives soon available. A discriminatory ban, that leaves the big players untouched while stomping on the small players, will never produce fairly-priced alternatives. The producers of

containers will have no economic incentive. The proposed Ordinance, in its current discriminatory form, is not simply legally suspect, it is grossly ill-considered if its goal is to hasten the end of the use of black plastic and styrofoam. All this Ordinance does is punish good, hard-working small businesses in St. Paul.

Joe Finley
1157 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105
Karen Bauer - re To Go Packaging

Karen lives at XXXX Edgcumbe and called in opposition to the 'to go packaging' ordinance. She feels city leaders and the government in general are interfering too much, and would do much better to educate people and then let the consumers make their own choices.

From: William Totten [<mailto:wtotten@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2019 11:11 AM
To: #Cl-StPaul_Ward3
Cc: A Rachel; Leon & Lindy Webster; Pat Smith-Welles
Subject: I support compostable to go packaging

I urge Councilmember Tolbert support the compostable to go packaging efforts. Minneapolis has done this and many eating establishments still remain in business.

Feel free to include my comments in the public record.

Thank you.

Wil Totten
1808 Highland Pkwy
Saint Paul

From: David Cossetta [<mailto:drc@cossettas.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2019 11:54 AM
To: #Cl-StPaul_Ward3
Subject: Chapter 236

Dear Councilmember Chris Tolbert,

We are asking you to vote no to amending chapter 236. We believe this is incredibly unfair and discriminates against certain use of certain products, see attached flyer.

Sincerely,

Dave Cossetta



Big Business
Flyer.pdf

Dear Saint Paul City Council,

I strongly support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul and to represent me and your other constituents who would benefit from this ordinance.

Thank you,
Cora Lund Preston
936 Lafond Ave, St Paul, MN 55104

From: Carl Winge [<mailto:carlewinge@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2019 4:15 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3
Subject: I Support Ordinance 17-29

Councilmember Tolbert,

I'd like to express my support for Ordinance 17-29 to require St. Paul businesses to switch to compostable, recyclable, or reusable to go containers. I think it's a great way to cut down on plastic pollution.

Thanks!

-Carl Winge
625 Saratoga St S, Saint Paul, MN 55116

From: Kristen Poppleton [<mailto:kpoppleton@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2019 7:40 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3
Subject: Please support Ordinance 17-29

Council member Tolbert,

I am a St. Paul resident who's deeply concerned about plastic pollution. I'm asking you to support Ordinance 17-29. This law would phase out unnecessary, dangerous products like polystyrene "to go" containers.

It's the right thing to do. We need to start phasing out wasteful single use plastics now. Please vote to pass Ordinance 17-29 on Wednesday, March 6th. Thank you!

Thank you for taking action,

Kristen Poppleton
1435 Goodrich Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105

From: GARY FIFIELD [<mailto:garyfifield@comcast.net>]
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2019 4:26 PM
To: Tolbert, Chris (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Ord. 17-29

I hope you will vote to eliminate non-recyclable takeout containers. It can't be so hard. Many restaurants have been doing it for years. Ban them now.

Gary Fifield

1893 Berkeley Ave.

From: Leon Webster [<mailto:leon@leonwebster.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2019 2:58 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3
Cc: Wil Totten; Rachel J Nelson; Pat Smith-Welles; Dawn Wilson; John Hardy; Lindy Webster
Subject: compostable to go packaging

Dear Councilman Tolbert,

I urge you to support the "green to go" / "compostable to go" ordinance which I believe will have a public hearing on March 6th. I understand that some businesses say this will create a hardship for them. However, they have had two years to make the shift, and other cities, such as our neighbor to the west have already implemented a similar ordinance. Heaven knows we already have enough plastic and styrofoam in the world.

Feel free to enter my comments into the public record at the hearing on March 6th.

Thanks for your consideration

Leon Webster
1769 Stanford Ave
St. Paul, MN 55105

From: cjrepete@aol.com [<mailto:cjrepete@aol.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 7:45 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ban polystyrene

Hello Amy,

I am a St. Paul resident and very concerned about plastic pollution. I'm asking you to support Ordinance 17-29. This law would phase out unnecessary, dangerous products like polystyrene "to go" containers. It's the right thing to do. We need to start phasing out wasteful single use plastics now. Please vote to pass Ordinance 17-29 on Wednesday, March 6th. Thank you!"

Cara Peterson

From: Evelyn Stillwell [<mailto:evelynstillwell@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 9:21 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Please support Ordinance 17-29 on Wednesday, March 6th

Hi Amy,

I'm an Environment Minnesota supporter and I am very concerned about plastic pollution. I'm asking to support Ordinance 17-29. This law would phase out unnecessary, dangerous products like polystyrene "to go" containers.

I feel very strongly that we need to start phasing out wasteful single use plastics and to do so as soon as possible. Please vote to pass Ordinance 17-29 on Wednesday, March 6th!

Thank you,
Evelyn Stillwell
1099 Chatsworth Street N.
Saint Paul, MN
55103

From: Tom Peterson [<mailto:tpeterson036@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 6:24 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Please vote to ban polystyrene in St. Paul

Hi! I'm an Environment Minnesota supporter and St. Paul resident who's deeply concerned about plastic pollution. I'm asking Amy Brendmoen to support Ordinance 17-29. This law would phase out unnecessary, dangerous products like polystyrene "to go" containers.

It's the right thing to do. We need to start phasing out wasteful single use plastics now. Please vote to pass Ordinance 17-29 on Wednesday, March 6th. Thank you!

Thank you for taking action,

Tom Peterson

From: Hmong Village Management Team <hvmanagementteam0418@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 10:35 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Chapter 236 Environmental Preservation - Plastic Packaging Ordinance

Councilmembers Thao, Prince, and Busuri:

I wish to express my concern on the Chapter 236 Environmental Preservation ordinance. It is my understanding that this ordinance only mandates to small businesses. It is also my understanding that large corporations are exempted from this ordinance. I strongly recommend that the organization

pushing for this ordinance and members of the City Council take the time to study the benefits and challenges before passing this ordinance. It would be fair to say it is their job to reach out to the community.

Hmong Village has 21 kitchens and readily packed shops that will be affected by this ordinance if it is passed without them knowing anything. This is not fair.

I will be attending the Council meeting tomorrow. I hope this email clarifies where Hmong Village stands on this issue. Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Thomas Herr

Management Team

Hmong Village, Inc.

1001 Johnson Parkway B18

St. Paul, MN 55106

From: Kathleen [<mailto:kplamphere@msn.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 1:20 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Black "to go" containers

Good Afternoon Councilperson Prince,

I am writing to oppose the ban on black plastic "to go" containers on Saint Paul restaurants. It is unfair, not to mention a drop in the bucket, to place the ban on one segment of society when other business/organizations use this same type of plastic. All users of this plastic should be banned from using it (in the entire United States if it is of real concern to the environment). Coming on top of the \$15 hour minimum wage increase, it especially puts a burden on the restaurant business. It would be far better to hold off on the ban until a cost effective solution is available - within a reasonable timeframe, of course.

Perhaps the Mayors staff - economic development, or whoever is in charge of assisting to keep small businesses alive and well in Saint Paul, or Public Works, or Environmental Health, could work with local users of this type of plastic to find a cost effective replacement, or a company that could make or develop one. It seems to me there must be something out there that can replace the black plastic containers.

Has the Council made any recommendations to restaurant owners for a replacement? Does the Council know of any containers now in use that would be adequate and cost effective?

Has anyone on the Council listened to the concerns of the restaurant owners - such as Cossetta's, to understand why other packaging won't work for them?

Thank you,

Kathleen Lamphere

From: Ashley Auerbach [mailto:auerb015@umn.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 3:35 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Sustainable St. Paul

Dear Saint Paul City Council,

I support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging. Please vote yes on March 6th for a more sustainable Saint Paul.

Thank you

From: Sara Chamberlain [mailto:sara.m.chamberlain@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 6:44 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Sustainable Packaging

Councilperson Noecker,

Good morning! My name is Sara I'm a Ward 2 resident, Orca enthusiast, and probably a few other things too. I'm writing about the sustainable packing ordinance that appears to be coming before the council today, and I am encouraging you to support it! It's a great first step toward being better consumers.

Many businesses already got rid of plastics and styrofoam years ago because they knew it was the right decision for their business, their customers, and our environment. This ordinance seeks to get those late adopters on board with many other businesses.

I worry about what the single-use-throw-away-plastic-culture is doing to our environment and in particular our waterways. Most plastic is not recycled and a fair amount's final destination is our ocean. It makes me sick to think about the amount of plastic that ends up in our ocean, and much of it is single use plastics that this ordinance seeks to curb.

This ordinance in Saint Paul, Minnesota isn't going to stop all plastic worldwide from ending up in our oceans, but we have an opportunity to be better and we should take it! Please support sustainable packing in Saint Paul today.

Warm regards,

Sara Chamberlain
840 Randolph

From: Henry Garnica <centromexsupermercado@gmail.com>
To: ward7@ci.stpaul.mnus, ward2@ci.stpaul.mnus, ward3@ci.stpaul.mnus
Cc:
Bcc:
Date: Tue, 5 Mar 2019 13:37:52 -0600
Subject: Proposing an ordinance to MANDATE A BAN
I am disagree and say NO! to "Chapter 236 Environmental Preservation: Plastic Packaging Ordinance"

I the owner of the small business on 7th E Street, Saint Paul. It is not fair for us. What about the exemption for a Large Corporations? We need to be Exempt also.

Henry Garnica
CentroMex Supermercado
Owner

From: Paris Dunning <paris@esaba.org>
Date: March 6, 2019 at 9:25:01 AM CST
To: "Prince, Jane (CI-StPaul)" <Jane.Prince@ci.stpaul.mn.us>, #CI-StPaul_Ward6
<Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: "Harr, Stephanie (CI-StPaul)" <Stephanie.Harr@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: City Council - Sustainable To Go

Good Morning City Council Members,

I wanted to write in with some of what I've heard on the East Side from small businesses about Sustainable To Go.

- The movement you've made in your timeline indicates you are thinking about coinciding the Sustainable To Go mandate to the timeline for a curbside organics program – without it, it will be a political win that doesn't actually divert very much trash. Higher priced packaging will go right into the garbage at people's homes. The city will have gotten the cart before the horse.
- Right now, pass an ordinance to incentivize the right behavior – create reasonable criteria and praise the early adopters with an incentive program – window clings, tax credits, visibility through Visit Saint Paul, the City, and others, and create the right pressure to pull other businesses into the fold. People especially like the tax credit idea. Can you work in a financial incentive at the City level?
- Praise the small businesses that are leading the way in creating the "Most Livable City in America." If hospitals and nursing homes and grocery stores won't do it, celebrate the small businesses that are. And if neighborhood businesses can do it, like some are proving they can, then big business has no excuse. We want to see our Council members standing with small businesses and promoting them. Op eds, visibility campaigns and photo shoots in each Ward are initial ideas that cost very little.
- Let's figure out how to get cooperative buying power going at a bigger level than just the East Side – our cooperative buying program hasn't had the impetus to really get going. But demand can bring the price points into the reality of small businesses and it is. Price points are coming down. More demand will keep that going.

What follows is business owner Eddie Wu's reaction to these and other ideas.

From: eddie <eddie3@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 2, 2019 3:28 PM
To: Paris Dunning <paris@esaba.org>
Subject: Re: Hi Eddie - Sustainable to go Coming back around

Hey Paris,

I won't be able to make it to the city council meeting, but I would say that if incentivizing through tax breaks were an option, it would help out. The price difference is nominal these days.

A generic wrapped plastic straw from US foods comes in at \$79.88 for a case of 12,000 or 4.83 for a box of 500 which equals \$0.0066 each by the case, or \$0.0096 each by the box

Paper/compostable wrapped straws are now \$79.44 for a case of 9,600 or \$0.008 per. (As you can see, they are actually cheaper if you buy 1 case, than by the box plastics are.

US foods sells case of 150 9" x 9" foam to go containers (standard restaurant size) for \$21.56, or \$0.1657 each.

I buy the same size compostable containers from Costco for \$0.19 each.

The people that are complaining are just lazy, stupid, or both.

I have compostable to go cups for both hot drinks and cold drinks, compostable straws, and to go containers. I am at about 98% compostable or recyclable. The only things that go in garbage are when food/items I use come in plastic, plastic wrap, and gloves. I have been this way for about 4 years. The last thing I added, which was last summer, was the straws. They are now readily available and inexpensive.

You are right about cooperative buying power. Even last summer paper straws were around \$0.10 each, and hard to find. Now, every major distributor has them readily available. It was the market demand that created the price drop and availability. I don't know what it would take for people to switch to composting/recycling. It is WAY cheaper, and just better business. I have 4 compost containers, 4 recycling containers, and 1 trash container that get picked up every week, and the trash container is 1/3 the cost of my monthly bill.

Hopefully it passes, there are tax breaks for people that are on board already, and everyone else will be forced to change - and only then will they realize they should have been doing it all along.

I hope this helps. Thanks for fighting the good fight.

Eddie Wu
Cook St Paul
Owner

Alisa Lein - Ward 3 resident re To Go Packaging

Alisa 100% supports reducing waste; she wants groups to be treated fairly and not differently. Ms Lein again wants you to know she supports reducing waste in the city.

From: Scott Van [<mailto:scottv@vanpaper.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 10:35 AM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7; #CI-StPaul_Ward6; #CI-StPaul_Ward5; #CI-StPaul_Ward4; #CI-StPaul_Ward3; #CI-StPaul_Ward2; #CI-StPaul_Ward1

Subject: FW: "A Message from Composters Serving Oregon"

Dear City Council Members and Staff,

This is a quick and important "must read" before the meeting this evening regarding the proposed packaging ordinance. Please make sure that every council member sees this.

Thank you very much.

Scott Van
Van Paper Co.
St. Paul, Mn



compostable_packaging_and_servicewa

Ward 6 resident Sarah Lynn Mansager is opposed to the "To Go" Ordinance.

Hi there,

My name is Kristin Davidson and I own Ultra Green Packaging. We provide tree free, compostable, recyclable, biodegradable, ovenable, microwaveable and freezer safe products for the foodservice industry. I understand that Dave Cosetta and others have some concerns regarding the affordability of sustainable packaging and I thought that I would take a few minutes to address those concerns.

Many people have the misconception that sustainable packaging is cost prohibitive. In fact, in a meeting with Jenny Mahoney of Kowalski's last week she said, "This stuff [my products] is actually the same price or cheaper than black plastic (CPET)?" Yes. It is. So if Dave Cosetta is using any to go containers that are CPET, he is mistaken if he thinks that sustainable containers are profoundly more expensive. I am guessing you have documentation regarding his true current costs vs. quoted costs for sustainable products so I would welcome the opportunity to review what he is currently paying for to go packaging and to offer a price quote for like items. If you could forward that spreadsheet I will turn it around asap.

I am a certified woman owned business and a certified small business owner. I provide manufacturing jobs in MN. I manufacture all of the RPET lids at my facility in Mound, MN. All of the fiber bases are made of bamboo and BPI certified compostable. Supporting Ultra Green means supporting MN manufacturing and businesses like Lunds & Byerlys, Kowalski's, Hy-Vee, Cub Foods, etc. The benefits of using locally made products in far reaching. I believe supporting the sustainable packaging initiative makes sense not only for our state economy and jobs, but for MN businesses who are already purchasing my products.

Other very important reasons to support this initiative: Black plastic containers cannot be recycled. Saint Paul commercial trash is taxed at 70% , while recycling /organics are taxed at 0%. Ultra Green is a Certified Supplier for the City of Minneapolis and St. Louis Park.

I welcome dialogue surrounding this issue and would love to answer any questions you may have. I wish I could be at the meeting this week. I do 2 trade shows per year and as luck would have it...I am at one of them this week! Please consider supporting Sustainable food packaging that is Woman - Made in MN.

Regards,

Kristin

Kristin Davidson

Council Members,

I previously sent this to my council member but wanted to ensure I communicated with all of you. I'm unable to attend the public hearing this evening, but I wanted to send you my comments in support of the sustainable to go packaging ordinance.

I started composting at home a couple of years ago thanks to the handy Mac Grove organics recycling drop-off site not far from where I live in Highland. Composting has made me much more aware of the packaging for what I buy.. My downtown St. Paul office switched, like I understand state agencies have, to where we have an organics recycling station next to mixed recycling and trash. We're responsible for separating our own discarded items into compost, recycling, or trash at work. I frequently go out for lunch in downtown St. Paul and love supporting local businesses downtown. I cringe when I get styrofoam or black plastic containers from some of the skyway restaurants and have stopped going to those places as much because of the materials I can't compost. Other businesses in St. Paul have made the move to these types of containers, and garbage bills can decrease when they start composting. St. Paul really needs this requirement to move us toward being a more sustainable city and world. It's doable and necessary. The volunteers with Zero Waste Saint Paul have done a lot of work to provide additional resources for small businesses, such as a container price comparison guide to help businesses learn about their options. I look forward to the Council moving the city forward by adopting this ordinance and ask for your support and vote in favor. We can do this, and we need to do this!

Thanks,
Heidi Schallberg

Hi City Council!

I am a Saint Paul college student and would love to see my city supporting sustainable measures like Ordinance 17-29. I love it here and want to see that we are committed to making sure people can continue to love living here for generations to come.

Thank you,
Maren

Chester Pietrzak (1743 E. Iowa) is opposed to the "To Go" ordinance.

Ms Nelson @ 1127 Kennard opposes the TO GO Ordinance because of the cost factor for both business owner and customers.

I support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging in Saint Paul.
Please vote YES for a more sustainable and less toxic future for everyone who lives, plays, and eats in Saint Paul.

Thank you!
Britta Sherrill
2030 5th St E, St Paul, MN 55119

Krista Evans - W3 Constituent re To Go Packaging

She's unable to attend the Council meeting today – she supports the to-go packaging ordinance, it's a move in the right direction, and the time allowed will give businesses plenty of time before it's enforced. She hopes CM Tolbert will also support the ordinance.

I, Krista Evans, support recyclable and compostable to-go packaging in Saint Paul.
Please vote YES for a more sustainable and less toxic future for everyone who lives, plays, and eats in Saint Paul."
Thank you!
Krista Evans
1953 Jefferson Ave, St. Paul, 55105



HMONG VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER

1001 Johnson PKWY, Suite B-18. St. Paul, MN 55106. Phone: 651-771-7886. Fax: 651-756-7460 hvmanagementteam0418@gmail.com

March 5, 2019

City Council Members
City of Saint Paul
310 City Hall
15 Kellogg Boulevard West
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Members of the City Council,

The Hmong Village Shopping Center, located at 1001 Johnson Parkway, is a local shopping center catering services to the Hmong and other communities on the east side of St. Paul, is truly concerned about the plan to pass an ordinance (Chapter 236 Environmental Preservation – Plastic Packaging Ordinance) banning various food service material including Polystyrene foam. This banning idea will create problem for our kitchens and restaurants at Hmong Village. We learned that this ordinance will exempt big corporations but only ban smaller businesses. This is not fair to our businesses.

Hmong Village houses hundreds of retail vendors. All of our vendors are small family owned. They work very hard, most of the time long hours, and the profit margin is very small. A ban in any form will have negative impact on them, and other small businesses throughout the City. The proposed plastic containers will not accommodate hot food.

There is a much more feasible alternative to banning polystyrene foam. Focusing on the efforts of recycling the material rather than banning is much more productive. Polystyrene foam is already recycled in areas all across the country and recycled polystyrene is used in products like smoke detectors, surfboards, rulers, crown molding, and garden nursery trays. And, as a thermoplastic, polystyrene foam can be recycled many times over.

On behalf of the kitchens and grocery shops at Hmong Village, I feel it is imperative that you consider shifting the focus from a ban to the logical alternative of recycling.

Attached is a signature sheet of all kitchens and grocery shops from Hmong Village for your review and consideration. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Thomas Herr
General Manager

PETITION TO OPPOSE PLASTIC PACKAGING ORDINANCE

We, the signers below, ask our city leaders to oppose the plastic packaging ordinance ban. Instead, we ask our city to coordinate a comprehensive foam recycling program. Rather than hurting small local businesses that fuel our city economy, we want leaders that seek progressive environmental solutions to address our waste stream.

Signature	Printed Name	Date	Address	Email / Phone
<i>[Signature]</i>	ZHANG MING	3-6-19		612-616-3792
<i>[Signature]</i>	TER TAO	3-6-19		612-545-7777
<i>[Signature]</i>	LOR YAN'S	3/6/19		651-404-0131
<i>[Signature]</i>	Sunqi' Wu	3/6/19		763-415-0605
<i>[Signature]</i>	MANG YUANA	3/6/19		715-271-5246
<i>[Signature]</i>	Leow	3/6/19		651-249-0286
<i>[Signature]</i>	Shoua Miao	3/6/19		651-800-8443
<i>[Signature]</i>	Long Yang	3/6/19		612-401-0170
<i>[Signature]</i>	Stella Miao	3/6/19		651-983-2942
<i>[Signature]</i>	Mai'er	3/6/19		913-972-5539
<i>[Signature]</i>	Lodda Lee	3-6-19		715-456-5058
<i>[Signature]</i>	Blong Yang	3/6/19		720-220-7015
<i>[Signature]</i>	Alian Lee	3/6/19		920-6368381
<i>[Signature]</i>	Leechor Lee	3/6/19		651-410-7255
<i>[Signature]</i>	Yueda Wang	3/6/19		651-399-6559
<i>[Signature]</i>	Schuckon Her	3/6/19		487-800-1653