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May 22, 2017

Mr. Dan Niziolek
Department of Safety and Inspections
375 Jackson Street, Suite 220
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Mr. Niziolek:

On May 11, 2017, the Board of Directors of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council (“MGCC”) held a public meeting, at which it considered a recommendation from its standing Environment Committee.

The Environment Committee of the Macalester Groveland Community Council (“MGCC”) discussed at two consecutive meetings the Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance, as proposed by the City of Saint Paul Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI). On March 17th, 2017, City staff and representatives from Eureka Recycling and DART Corporation were present to discuss and answer questions. At the meetings, attendees spoke in favor of and in opposition to the ordinance.

The MGCC at its May 11th Board of Directors meeting passed the following resolution as recommended by its Environment committee:

WHEREAS “to-go” packaging is food packaging taken off-site from a restaurant or other retailer providing food for immediate consumption, compostable packaging is certified compostable in a local industrial composting facility, and recyclable packaging is recyclable in our City’s local recycling program; and,

WHEREAS requiring “to go” food packaging that is reusable, recyclable, or compostable supports a goal of zero waste in homes, workplaces and businesses; and

WHEREAS “to go” packaging that is reusable, recyclable, or compostable protects our health and the health of our environment; and

WHEREAS exempting items that do not meet the recyclable or compostable requirement weakens the ordinance and dramatically reduces the positive environmental outcomes, and there are viable alternatives to potentially exempted items such as polystyrene, black plastic, and plastic and poly coated cups, which negatively affect both our environment and our local recycling programs; and

WHEREAS the proposed ordinance includes a commitment by the City to help businesses by financially supporting creative ways to comply with the ordinance, including support for investments (i.e. dishwashers, reusable plates); and

WHEREAS we plan to participate in educational efforts to increase the success of the packaging ordinance by sharing information with retailers and restaurants that helps them access compliant packaging while meeting their unique business needs; and

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Macalester-Groveland Community Council supports the proposed Saint Paul Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance, recommending that it be consistent with other regional communities that pursued similar programs.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Britta Sherrill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Britta Sherrill
Program & Communications Coordinator
Macalester-Groveland Community Council

cc (via email): Ward 3, City of Saint Paul
Ward 4, City of Saint Paul