



Highland District Council
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Resolution Indicating Support for Sustainable To-Go Packaging, Increased Recycling Participation, and Less Use of Toxic Food Containers

WHEREAS: “to-go” packaging is food packaging taken off-site from a restaurant or other retailer for immediate food consumption, and

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

WHEREAS compostable packaging is certified compostable in a local industrial composting facility, and recyclable packaging is recyclable in Saint Paul’s recycling program; and

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

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

WHEREAS regional daycare, healthcare, and other establishments exempt from mandatory sustainable to-go packaging, but reliant on disposable packaging and service ware are offered the same resources and time to transition to reusable, compostable, and recyclable products as other non-exempted enterprises; and

WHEREAS we encourage the city to provide educational efforts to increase the success of the packaging ordinance by sharing information with all businesses that assists them access compliant packaging while meeting their unique business needs; and

WHEREAS the Highland Park Neighborhood Plan (District 15 plan) is supportive of St. Paul’s Zero Waste plan; and

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Highland District Council supports action by the St. Paul City Council to pass a Sustainable To-Go Packaging ordinance that requires the use of compostable or recyclable to-go packaging.

| Approved February 07, 2019

| By the Highland District Council Board of Directors

Resolution 2019 -05C