BEFORE THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NUMBER 47-2019

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE VOLUNTARY REDUCTION AND ULTIMATE ELIMINATION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS AND POLYSTYRENE PRODUCTS AND THE OVERALL REDUCTION OF PLASTIC POLLUTION; PROVIDING FOR AN OUTREACH CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC, K-12 STUDENTS AND BUSINESSES REGARDING THE HARM CREATED BY PLASTIC AND POLYSTYRENE PRODUCTS TO TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENTS; JOINING A COLLABORATIVE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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WHEREAS, approximately 8.8 million tons of plastic pollution flows into the oceans each year and this amount is expected to double by 2025; and

WHEREAS, plastic straws and expanded polystyrene (EPS) products are not compostable or biodegradable, but instead photodegrade into smaller pieces which are then ingested by terrestrial and marine life, and can eventually make its way into the human food chain and water supply generating a serious threat to our natural environment, marine and wildlife, and human health; and

WHEREAS, Martin County has passed similar resolutions seeking the reduction of single use plastic straws and EPS while recognizing the need for collaborative efforts to preserve, protect,

and enhance the southeast Florida coastal waters and establishing goals concerning their environmental, ecological, and socioeconomic value; and

WHEREAS, reduction of single-use plastic straws and EPS is a strategy to reduce marine debris and address the decline in coral reef ecosystems supports the South East Florida Coral Reef initiative (SEFCRI) and Coastal Ocean Task Force (COTF) region that includes Martin County; and

WHEREAS, Martin County and the City of Stuart jointly consider reduction and ultimate elimination of single-use plastic straws and EPS and implementation of an education and outreach campaign of high importance; and

WHEREAS, it can be acknowledged that many county and city businesses have taken affirmative steps to reduce single-use, non-recyclable plastics and that these and other proactive efforts to ultimately eliminate pollution by plastics are encouraged; and

WHEREAS, entering into collaborative partnerships with the University of Florida / Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Florida Sea Grant, a technical and science-based extension of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Treasure Coast Chapter of Surfrider Organization, which is dedicated to the protection of the ocean and beaches, the Students4H2O with a mission to enhance education, stewardship, and citizenship for all students in our community, and other similar organizations with common goals is mutually beneficial; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stuart's Comprehensive Plan includes special environmental considerations including the protection and preservation of the functions and values of marine natural systems including the protection of endangered or threatened species of special concern; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stuart encourages and supports the reduction of single-use straws and overall reduction of plastic with the ultimate goal of elimination of plastic pollution in terrestrial

and marine environments in furtherance of the protection of aquatic life and public's health, safety, and welfare.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, THAT:

SECTION 1: The foregoing precatory language is adopted as if set forth below:

- **A.** An outreach program to educate the public, including residents, visitors, K-12 students, and local businesses regarding the harm to terrestrial and marine environments created by plastic straws, polystyrene, and other plastic products shall be implemented on or prior to July 30, 2019.
- **B.** A review of City of Stuart purchasing policies shall be conducted prior to July 30, 2019. The purpose of this review is to strive to eliminate the use of single use plastics from City operations and events through waste prevention and use of biodegradable service ware alternatives, except as may be necessary to meet public safety needs by the end of 2020.
- **C.** All businesses operating within the City of Stuart are encouraged to discontinue providing plastic drinking straws, plastic stirring sticks, plastic bags and similar plastic items and polystyrene products as soon as possible.
- **D.** Businesses operating within the City of Stuart that provide a product for which a plastic straw, plastic stirring stick, and similar plastic items and polystyrene products may be used, are encouraged to reduce single-use service wares or offer alternative biodegradable, marine friendly items as substitutes, and to provide a plastic straw only when an individual insists upon such product.
- **E.** The City should enter into a collaborative regional partnership with Martin County, UF/IFAS FL Sea Grant, and the Treasure Coast Chapter of Surfrider Organization, and other entities that share the common goal of reducing and ultimately eliminating plastic pollution.
- **F.** The City of Stuart supports efforts to repeal current state laws that preempt local government regulation of plastic bags and containers, and local government regulation of the use and sale of polystyrene products.
- **G.** A copy of this resolution shall be provided to Martin County, UF/IFAS Florida Sea Grant, the Treasure Coast Chapter of Surfrider Organization, the Loggerhead Marinelife Center, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Florida Oceanographic Society, Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, Martin County School Board, the Rivers Coalition, Students4H2O, the South East Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI), and the Coastal Ocean Task Force (COTF).

SECTION 2: The City Commission of the City of Stuart, Florida authorizes this resolution in support of the voluntary reduction and ultimate elimination of single-use plastic straws, polystyrene products, plastic bags and the overall reduction of plastic pollution.

SECTION 3: This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

Resolution No. 47-2019
Supporting the Voluntary Reduction of Single-Use Plastics and Polystyrene Products

Commissioner _____ offered the foregoing resolution and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
REBECCA S. BRUNER, MAYOR				
EULA R. CLARKE, VICE MAYOR				
KELLI GLASS LEIGHTON, COMMISSIONER				
MERRITT MATHESON, COMMISSIONER				
MIKE MEIER, COMMISSIONER				

ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 2019.

ATTEST:

_____
MARY R. KINDEL
CITY CLERK

_____
REBECCA S. BRUNER
MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND CORRECTNESS:

_____
MICHAEL MORTELL
CITY ATTORNEY