

WHEREAS, it is the goal of government to promote the welfare of its citizens; this includes ensuring the health and vibrancy of the environment in which they live; a fair and just economy, and the means of achieving a flourishing life; and

WHEREAS, single use plastics and its toxic building blocks have become ubiquitous in our modern world, but their widespread use comes with consequences for human health. Plastic production, use, and disposal - and its associated pollution - disproportionately affects frontline, fenceline, and Indigenous communities, creating or reinforcing social inequalities; and

WHEREAS, The City of Detroit has long grappled with the consequences of single-use plastics and the City's residents bear the cost of their management (i.e. collection, sortation, and disposal). The unnecessary prevalence and overreliance on single-use containers has resulted in a staggering rate of waste production, all of which is difficult to manage sustainably. The City of Detroit further recognizes reduction of single use plastics is the most effective means of avoiding the costs associated with handling their waste streams;

WHEREAS, the Detroit Climate Strategy (2023) establishes the city's commitment to "divert 15% of municipal solid waste from landfills by 2026" as part of comprehensive decarbonization efforts; and

WHEREAS, plastic debris that is not managed properly pollutes our environment and clogs storm drains causing flooding of roadways and undermining investments in flood prevention and stormwater management infrastructure. Because of this, microplastics are present in very high quantities in wastewater and subsequently contaminate sewage sludge, commonly utilized as fertilizer in agriculture. This contamination is harming soil microbes, affecting plant growth, and overall altering the composition and properties of soil - a crucial habitat for over half of the planet's species; and

WHEREAS, single-use plastics, upon entering the environment, break apart into persistent micro- and nanoplastics, primarily due to sun exposure which creates free radicals capable of altering biological processes at a molecular level; these pervasive pollutants are found in water, rain, soil, and wildlife, have been ingested by pets, and are now present inside human bodies, raising serious concerns about long-term exposure. Extensive studies by credible scholars confirm the negative impacts of these plastics, with recent research showing micro- and nanoplastics entering cells, crossing the blood-brain barrier, and detected in human brains, placentas, mammary glands, and testicles, effectively flowing through the veins

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of every human being on the planet; furthermore, toxic chemicals leaching from plastic products have been linked to a range of severe health issues including endocrine (hormonal) disruptions, reproductive problems, impaired organ function, various types of cancer, and developmental disruption in children, even in the embryonic stage, disproportionately impacting women, children, and frontline communities; and

WHEREAS, local regulation of single-use plastics would open markets, creating a climate conducive to entrepreneurialism; it will encourage investment in sustainable packaging and circular, closed-loop systems, those that will eventually replace single-use plastic containers. Local regulation would position Detroit as a leader in the rapidly growing sustainable packaging industry, attracting green businesses and supporting local economic development while reducing long-term municipal costs.

WHEREAS, in 2016, the passage of Michigan Public Act (PA) 389 of 2016, prohibited local jurisdictions from regulating the use of single-use plastic containers, which the Act defines as “auxiliary containers.” Specifically, MCL 445.592 restricts a local unit of government in the State of Michigan from adopting or enforcing an ordinance that:

- (a) Regulates the use, disposition, or sale of auxiliary containers.
- (b) Prohibits or restricts auxiliary containers.
- (c) Imposes a fee, charge, or tax on auxiliary containers.

Pursuant to the PA 389 of 2016, auxiliary container means a bag, cup, bottle, or other packaging, whether reusable or single-use, that meets both of the following requirements:

- (a) is made of cloth, paper, plastic, cardboard, corrugated material, aluminum, glass, post-consumer recycled material, or similar material or substrates, including coated, laminated, or multilayer substrates, and
- (b) is designed for transporting, consuming, or protecting merchandise, food, or beverages from or at a food service or retail facility; and

The Detroit City Council supports repeal of the prohibition against local municipalities from regulating single-use or reusable plastics. The state’s local municipalities and counties are best positioned to assess and mitigate the environmental and health impacts of such materials within their communities.

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Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the City of Detroit on this day of [insert date] does hereby fully support the repeal of prohibitions placed on Michigan's local jurisdictions as to the control of what are known as "auxiliary containers", and that this be accomplished by the immediate repeal of Public Act 389 of 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City of Detroit strongly urges the State of Michigan Legislature and Governor to support this resolution and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution shall be provided to the Wayne County delegation of both the Michigan State Senate and House of Representatives; Governor; Wayne County Executive; and the City of Detroit's Wayne County's lobbying firms.