



Miami Shores Village

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Crystal Wagar
MAYOR

Alice Burch
VICE MAYOR

Sean Brady
COUNCILMAN

Stephen Loffredo
COUNCILMAN

Jonathan Meltz
COUNCILMAN

Tom Benton
VILLAGE MANAGER

Richard Sarafan
VILLAGE ATTORNEY

Ysabely Rodriguez
VILLAGE CLERK

MEMORANDUM

TO: Crystal Wagar, Mayor, Alice Burch, Vice Mayor,
Sean Brady, Councilman, Stephen Loffredo, Councilman

FROM: Jonathan Meltz, Councilman

CC: Tom Benton, Village Manager
Ysabely Rodriguez, Village Clerk
Richard Sarafan, Village Attorney

Date: June 12, 2019

RE: Discussion and Possible Action Establishing Miami Shores Single Use Plastic and Paper Bag Reduction Program

Community Plastic Reduction Workshops were held at the Community Center on May 20 and June 9. The main idea of the workshops was summarized by the following: Ban Plastic Bags? Ban Plastic Straws? Ban Nothing? Begin Bag Fees? Do Something? Do Nothing?

In addition to providing an open forum giving residents the opportunity to be heard on the issue of plastic reduction, presentations were made by Scott Davis, Miami Shores Public Works Director (Miami Shores Recycling Program), Dorothy Campbell, Surfrider Foundation Miami and Miami Shores Resident (Rise Above Plastics Program), John Ise, Biscayne Times Columnist and Miami Shores Resident (Paying for Our Fair Share of Trash) and Aaron Kleinert, CEO - StrawFish.co (Sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics).

The Miami Shores residents in attendance were unanimous and enthusiastically in support of the Village Council taking action to reduce plastic. Accordingly, I decided to bring this issue to the Council Agenda for discussion and possible action.

Consideration

Upon review of the available resources and authorities, it appears the most effective action would be to implement a bag fee on both single-use plastic bags and single-use paper bags with fee exemptions for appropriate individuals. The fees collected would go to a Miami Shores Environmental Fund.

Background and Resources

Resource for Legislative Bodies Considering Laws That Limit The Use Of Plastic Bags.
<https://www.plasticbaglaws.org/>

2019 Plastic Bag Law Fact Sheet
<https://www.plasticbaglaws.org/fact-sheet-1>

State Plastic and Paper Bag Legislation
<http://www.ncsl.org/research/environment-and-natural-resources/plastic-bag-legislation.aspx>

Plastic Bag Law Toolkit - Surfrider Foundation
http://publicfiles.surfrider.org/Plastics/Plastic_Bag_Law_Activist_Toolkit_2019.pdf

➤ **Other Cities & Municipalities**

City of Orlando officially bans single-use plastics and polystyrene on city property
<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/orange-county/os-ne-orlando-plastic-ban-20190603-uhv3p4mi6fcszndx2mtkvmtqg-story.html>

Palm Beach moving ahead on bans of single-use plastics, certain fertilizers
<https://www.palmbeachdailynews.com/news/20190519/palm-beach-moving-ahead-on-bans-of-single-use-plastics-certain-fertilizers>

➤ **Other Countries**

Canada announces ban on single-use plastics as early as 2021
<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/business/article231381318.html>

➤ **For & Against**

Bag the Ban - Say no to bans and taxes on your grocery bags
<https://www.bagtheban.com/>

Our love affair with single-use plastics is over
<https://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/wilderness-resources/stories/war-plastic-bags-plastic-items>

➤ **Corporate Responsibility**

Whole Foods To Ban Plastic Straws And Offer Smaller Produce Bags
<https://miami.cbslocal.com/2019/05/20/whole-foods-plastic-straw-ban-smaller-produce-bags/>

Publix embraces plastic bag ban in South Carolina, so why not in Florida?
<https://www.tampabay.com/florida-politics/buzz/2019/04/09/publix-embraces-plastic-bag-ban-in-south-carolina-so-why-not-in-florida/>

Southeastern Grocers, Publix fail in supermarket plastics ranking
<https://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2019/06/11/southeastern-grocers-fails-in-supermarket-plastics.html>

Publix - Plastic Bag Reduction
<https://sustainability.publix.com/customer-service-desk/plastic-bag-reduction/>