

RESOLUTION NO. 03-2017

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PALM BEACH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, STRONGLY ENCOURAGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO REPEAL SECTION 403.7033, FLORIDA STATUTES, SO THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE NO LONGER PREEMPTED FROM ENACTING APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF PLASTIC BAGS.

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Palm Beach is diligent in its efforts to preserve the beautiful environment that supports the tourism industry which is so vital to the economy of the Town of Palm Beach and the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, plastic bags are detrimental because they do not fully degrade in our oceans or land environment and they introduce unsafe chemicals into our environment; and

WHEREAS, plastic bags create the potential for death of (land) and marine animals through entanglement and ingestion; and

WHEREAS, the expansive usage of single-use shopping bags and their typical disposal rates creates an impediment to the Town's waste reduction and recycling goals while creating unsightly litter; and

WHEREAS, single-use plastic bags are difficult to recycle and frequently contaminate material that is processed through the Town's curbside recycling and composting programs; and

WHEREAS, reusable bags are considered to be the best option to reduce waste and litter, protect wildlife and conserve resources; and

WHEREAS, Council acknowledges that some businesses have taken affirmative steps to accomplish this goal and recognizes their proactive efforts; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the Council to encourage and enable the location of a viable reusable bag manufacturing operation in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the Florida Legislature to provide statewide deregulation of the proliferation of single-use shopping bags; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature under "The Energy, Climate Change, and Economic Security Act of 2008", enacted House Bill 7135, creating Section 403.7033, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, Section 403.7033 requires the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to perform an analysis and submit a report to the Legislature by February 1, 2010 regarding the necessity and efficacy of both statewide and local regulation of bags used by consumers to carry products from retail establishments; and

WHEREAS, the statute also provides that until such time that the Legislature adopts the recommendations of DEP, no local or state government may enact any regulation or tax on the use of such retail bags; and

WHEREAS, the DEP analysis determined a need for new or different regulations of bags used by customers to carry products from retail establishments and recommends the implementation of new standards requiring the prohibition of plastic carryout bags encourages the use of reusable bags to the benefit of the State's environment; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council supports the efforts to repeal Section 403.7033, Florida Statutes, so that local government can enact appropriate legislation relating to the regulation of plastic bags.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PALM BEACH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. The Mayor and Town Council support efforts to repeal Section 403.7033, Florida Statutes, so that local governments are no longer preempted from enacting appropriate legislation relating to the regulation of plastic bags.

Section 2. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED in a regular, adjourned session of the Town Council of the Town of Palm Beach assembled this 10th day of January, 2017.

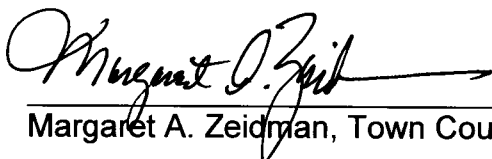

Gail L. Coniglio, Mayor



Michael J. Pucillo, Town Council President


Richard M. Kleid, Council President Pro Tem


Bobbie Lindsay, Town Council Member


Danielle H. Moore, Town Council Member


Margaret A. Zeidman, Town Council Member


Susan A. Owens, MMC, Town Clerk



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