



**COUNCILWOMAN
LENA GONZALEZ**

DATE: December 20, 2016
TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Councilwoman Lena Gonzalez, District 1 *LG*
Councilmember Jeannine Pearce, District 2 *JP*
Councilmember Roberto Uranga, District 7 *RU*

SUBJECT: Ban on Polystyrene Products

RECOMMENDATION

1. Request the City Attorney draft an ordinance related to banning the sale and distribution of expanded polystyrene and other polystyrene disposable food service containers within the City of Long Beach with exemptions for the Long Beach Unified School District.
2. Request the City Manager or designee to work with the Office of Sustainability, the Sustainable City Commission and community stakeholders to develop a public education campaign related to the ban, which would include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Timeline for implementation,
 - b. List of Vendors who sell non-polystyrene products,
 - c. Website with all available information regarding the ban and information about polystyrene,
 - d. Hotline for questions and concerns
3. Request the City Manager or designee to work with the Economic Development Committee of the City Council to come up with financial incentives for local businesses who implement the ban of these products before the implementation date of the ordinance.
4. This ordinance, education plan and incentive structure should return to the City Council for deliberation within 120 days.
5. Upon approval, the City Manager should provide an annual update regarding the ban to the Environmental Committee of the City Council.

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND

Expanded Polystyrene is a common plastic used in food packaging and restaurant takeout items. According to the California Coastal Commission, polystyrene is the 2nd largest source of litter on California beaches.¹ Polystyrene is especially harmful to the environment because it is not biodegradable and can last for hundreds of years in a landfill or in the ocean as floating debris.² Over 65 cities in California have taken a proactive approach to curb this epidemic by banning the use of expanded polystyrene in the food service industry. These cities include Oakland, San Francisco, San Jose, West Hollywood, Laguna Beach and Dana Point, to name a few.³ Citywide bans on polystyrene have been extremely successful throughout the state and nation in reducing the pollution of polystyrene. For example, the 2008 San Francisco Litter Audit revealed a 36% reduction in polystyrene litter since the ban was implemented in 2007⁴.

The City of Long Beach began exploring opportunities to ban expanded polystyrene through a Council Item presented by former Councilmember Frank Colona in 2005.⁵ Over the course of the past eleven years, City staff has continuously identified polystyrene products as a “huge source of litter” and confirmed that it “is not easily recycled” within the City of Long Beach. Additionally, through a 2007 memo to the members of the City Council’s Environmental Committee, city staff laid out a plan to implement a ban on polystyrene products and single use plastic bags. This plan included outreach and education to local businesses, creating a green designation program and banning the use of polystyrene at all municipal buildings and city events. Additionally, in 2011 the City of Long Beach passed a ban on single use plastic bags⁶ and supported SB 568 carried by then Senator Alan Lowenthal to ban polystyrene in the food industry statewide.

While the City of Long Beach’s actions have stalled regarding polystyrene, several community groups have advocated and successfully worked with over two dozen small businesses and two national chains, McDonalds and Starbucks, to discontinue the use of polystyrene products. These local businesses include Berlin Bistro (District 1), Lola’s Mexican Cuisine (District 2 and 8), Panama Joe’s (District 3) and Crooked Duck (District 4) among others. These businesses are highlighted through the Surfrider’s Ocean Friendly Restaurants program. (See Attachment A).

¹ <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/history.html>

² http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/opc_ocean_litter_final_strategy.pdf (page 8)

³ <http://www.surfrider.org/pages/polystyrene-ordinances>

⁴ http://sfenvironment.org/downloads/library/2008_litter_audit.pdf

⁵ <http://longbeach.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=467066&GUID=EA2601D7-02BD-42B2-83BF-3B2DB8DBAB6B>

⁶ <http://longbeach.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=895176&GUID=8CFFA173-87FE-4066-9BF0-B681BF0EB803>

FISCAL IMPACT

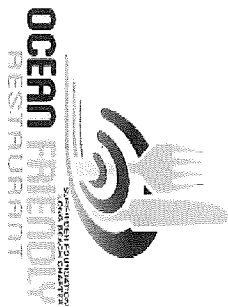
The fiscal impact is expected to be minimal at city facilities according to the 2007 City Staff Report provided to the Environmental Committee.

The financial impact to businesses is also expected to be minimal with most non-polystyrene products being competitively priced.

SUGGESTED ACTION

Approve recommendations.

Attachment A



Council Dist.	Business Name	Business Location	Ocean Friendly Level
Dist 1	Ahimsa Vegan Cafe	340 E 4th St., Long Beach, 90802	Silver
Dist 1	Berlin Bistro	420 E 4th St., Long Beach, CA 90802	Gold
Dist 1	Steamed	801 E 3rd St, Long Beach, CA 90802	Platinum
Dist 2	Agaves	200 Pine Ave, Long Beach, 90802	Silver
Dist 2	Beachwood BBQ & Brewing	210 E 3rd St., Long Beach, CA	Silver
Dist 2	Bo Beau	144 Pine Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802	Platinum
Dist 2	Cafe Sevilla	140 Pine Ave., Long Beach CA 90802	Silver
Dist 2	Chelsea Chowder House & Bar	The Queen Mary, 1126 Queens Hwy, LB, 90802	Gold
Dist 2	Creme de la Crepe	400 E 1st St., Long Beach, CA 90802	Gold
Dist 2	Federal Bar	102 Pine Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802	Gold
Dist 2	James Republic	500 E 1st St, Long Beach, CA 90802	Silver
Dist 2	Kafe Neo	2800 E 4th St, Long Beach, CA 90814	Silver
Dist 2	Lola's Mexican Cuisine	2030 E 4th St., Long Beach, CA	Silver
Dist 2	Number 9	2118 E 4th St., Long Beach, CA 90814	Gold
Dist 2	Paradise	1800 E Broadway, Long Beach, CA 90802	Silver

Attachment A

Council Dist.	Business Name	Business Location	Ocean Friendly Level
Dist 2	Portfolio Coffeehouse	2300 E 4th St., Long Beach, CA 90802	Gold.
Dist 2	Restauration	2708 E 4th St., Long Beach, CA 90814	Gold
Dist 2	The Attic	3441 E Broadway, Long Beach, 90803	Silver
Dist 2	The Green House	149 Linden Ave, Long Beach, CA 90802	Silver
Dist 3	Panama Joe's	5100 E 2nd St, Long Beach, CA 90803	Silver.
Dist 3	Rubio's	4702 E Second Street, Long Beach, CA 90803	Silver
Dist 3	Simmzy's	5271 E 2nd St, Long Beach, CA 90803	Silver
Dist 3	Z Pizza	4612 E 2nd St, Long Beach, CA 90803	Silver
Dist 3	Z Pizza	5719 E 7th St., Long Beach CA 90803	Silver
Dist 4	Crooked Duck	5096 E. Pacific Coast Hwy., Long Beach, CA 90804	Silver
Dist 4	Ecco's Pizza	2123 N. Bellflower Blvd.	Gold
Dist 4	The Marketplace Grill Cafe	4750 E. Los Coyotes Diagonal, Long Beach, CA 90804	Silver
Dist 8	Factory Gastrobar	4020 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA	Silver
Citywide	McDonalds	Nationwide	Silver
Citywide	Starbucks	Nationwide	Silver