

Communication from Public

Name: Silvie Snow-Thomas

Date Submitted: 03/16/2021 04:47 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: The use of single-use plastic has skyrocketed due to COVID-19, including here in Los Angeles, where our beloved local restaurants are forced to rely primarily on takeout and delivery. Consumption of single-use plastics has increased by 250% - 300% since the pandemic began, with a 30% increase in waste attributed in part to disposable foodware. Nationwide, billions of food accessories are thrown away each year, many of which aren't even used once. (Many of us even hold on to them, hoping that they'll be used one day.) The vast majority of these single-use items cannot be recycled. They add to the plastic pollution crisis, litter our neighborhoods, rivers, and ocean, and clog already overfilled landfills. Using fossil fuels to produce plastic items that aren't even used is the last thing we need during a climate crisis. These impacts also present significant environmental justice issues, with frontline and fenceline communities bearing a disproportionate burden of the impacts from climate change, fossil fuel extraction, and incineration associated with single-use waste. We are advocating for #SkipTheStuff legislation in both Los Angeles City and Los Angeles County. In January 2021, Los Angeles City Councilmembers Paul Koretz and Paul Krekorian introduced a motion to draft city-wide legislation to #SkipTheStuff. It would require all of those takeout "extras" (aka foodware accessories) to be available only upon request for takeout, delivery, and third-party delivery apps. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors followed suit in February 2021 and unanimously passed a similar motion after it was introduced by Boardmember Sheila Kuehl. This legislation also fully recognizes that community members with disabilities may need plastic straws, single-use utensils, or other foodware accessories to provide suitable accommodations for ease of use. It is crucial that restaurants and third-party delivery apps readily promote and provide accommodations for all. This "upon request" model is intentionally structured to meet all ADA requirements and accommodations to ensure that there is equitable access to easily enjoy dine-in, takeout, or delivery from LA eateries. Under this ordinance, customers are encouraged to request foodware accessories if they want them and will have them provided. Restaurants and food delivery apps should default to no single-use accessories for orders, unless the customer requests them.

Switching to foodware accessories “upon request” reduces unnecessary waste and saves restaurants money. Los Angeles has done this before with straws on request. At a time when local restaurants and small businesses are struggling to stay open, we see this as a simple solution to cut down on excess costs as well as plastic pollution. We support these ordinances as a win-win for our LA communities, businesses, and environment.??

Communication from Public

Name: Juli Schulz

Date Submitted: 03/16/2021 08:31 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: The use of single-use plastic has skyrocketed due to COVID-19, including here in Los Angeles, where our beloved local restaurants are forced to rely primarily on takeout and delivery. Consumption of single-use plastics has increased by 250% - 300% since the pandemic began, with a 30% increase in waste attributed in part to disposable foodware. Nationwide, billions of food accessories are thrown away each year, many of which aren't even used once. (Many of us even hold on to them, hoping that they'll be used one day.) PLEASE PASS THE RESOLUTION TO MAKE UTENSILS BY REQUEST ONLY FROM ALL RESTAURANTS AND DELIVERY SERVICES!!!

Communication from Public

Name: Grace

Date Submitted: 03/16/2021 11:28 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing in support of reducing takeout trash after a steep increase in single-use plastic consumption since the pandemic began. Restaurants and food delivery apps should default to no single-use accessories for orders, unless the customer requests them. Switching to foodware accessories "upon request" reduces unnecessary waste and saves restaurants money— a win win for business and the environment.

Communication from Public

Name: Mandy

Date Submitted: 03/17/2021 02:13 AM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly support #SkipTheStuff Agenda Item #7. Providing takeout extras only when requested, saves LA restaurants money, reduces waste, and protects our environment.