

THOUSAND OAKS CITY COUNCIL



Supplemental Information Packet

**Agenda Related Items - Meeting of October 13, 2020
Supplemental Packet Date: October 13, 2020**

5:00 p.m.

Supplemental Information:

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed, typically a minimum of two—one available on the Thursday preceding the City Council meeting and the second on Tuesday at the meeting. The Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection on the City's website at toaks.org/agendas or by contacting the City Clerk Dept at (805) 449-2151 during normal business hours [main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2)].

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

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**ALL FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE
RELATED TO ITEM 8.A.**

From: rawitt@verizon.net <rawitt@verizon.net>

Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 3:26 PM

To: City Clerk's Office <cityclerk@toaks.org>

Subject: Public Comments, Agenda Item #8, the Single-Use Disposable Plastics Ordinance

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Dear City Clerk,

Below please find my comments on Item #8, the Single-Use Disposable Plastics Ordinance, of tonight's City Council Meeting Agenda. I'd appreciate it if you'd distribute said comments to each of our City Councilmembers and make them part of the public record.

Thank you so much,

Rose Ann Witt

rawitt@verizon.net

Thousand Oaks, CA 91362-4249

I support adopting new rules to minimize, and ultimately eliminate, plastic and styrofoam production, use, consumption and sales to reduce waste, pollution and toxic chemical contamination, while protecting our creeks, streams, estuaries, ocean waters, fishing industries, air quality, public health, wildlife and climate. So I am writing to urge you to vote to APPROVE today's agenda item #8, the Single-Use Disposable Plastics Ordinance, to prohibit the use, distribution, and sale of designated polystyrene (styrofoam) products, and limit the distribution of plastic utensils and beverage straws city-wide.

Single-use, disposable plastics are imperiling our environment; and they're endangering human health as well. These items are made to last forever, but are mostly used only once. This is creating a crisis where 32% of the 78 million tons of plastic packaging produced annually ends up in our oceans ... far more than is ever recycled.

There are already over 5 trillion pieces of plastic in our oceans — and the equivalent of one garbage truck worth of plastic enters the ocean every minute of every day. We are sold fruit, vegetables, snacks, takeout meals, and countless other products packaged in plastics that we have no choice but to throw away.

That's why, as a biologist concerned about the toxic impacts of plastic on biodiversity, and as a parent concerned with the quality of the air my children breathe as well as the purity of the water they drink and bathe in, I've decided to eliminate as much plastic as possible from my life. That means switching my daily food shopping to farmer's markets and grocers that offer an abundant selection of fresh produce, meat and cheese NOT sold in plastic packaging; purchasing and carrying reusable canvas produce and shopping bags so as to be able to consistently decline single-use plastic bags;

purchasing reusable stainless steel water bottles so as to completely eliminate our family's need to purchase or accept single-use plastic water bottles; carrying a personal set of utensils to avoid plastic utensils when eating at inexpensive restaurants; always declining plastics straws; and, unfortunately, avoiding buying take-out foods.

Regrettably, while individual actions like those of my family contribute to necessary solutions, absent systemic policy action they remain wholly insufficient to affect change within the time-frame, and on the scale, which science demands to preserve any semblance of our present quality of life. I'd like to do more but plastic is ubiquitous; and without local ordinances and national legislation to encourage its disuse, trying to avoid it is a daunting and nearly impossible challenge. It shouldn't be this hard to try to clean up the ecosystems we, and all life, depend on for our health and survival.

Instead, the trash is piling up everywhere ... in local creeks, streams, water courses, and ocean waters. As we all know, sea turtles mistake floating plastic for jellyfish; while fishes, whales and seabirds mistake small, colorful plastic pieces for plankton. Resultantly, thousands of ocean creatures die annually of starvation from eating plastic. But the problem goes far deeper than the eye can see. Because plastic never fully decomposes, but instead merely breaks down into smaller and smaller fragments, microscopic pieces of plastic float around suspended in river and ocean waters. So while area taxpayers are on the hook for millions of dollars, every year, for the cost of cleaning-up all the visible plastic pollution resulting from industry's over-production and artificially manufactured demand, microscopic plastic pollution has increasingly become lodged in the tissues of the fish, seafood, meat, and even the produce we eat, as well as inside our own organs ... where it absorbs chemical toxins. (Kind of ironic considering the fact that food is supposed to nourish, not harm, us.) This ongoing cycle of events compromises the safety of the food we eat, endangering public health as well as the continued prosperity of both our county agricultural and fishing industries.

Half of the world's 6.3Bn tons of plastic was created in the last 13 years, and half of that is single-use plastic used once and thrown "away." In fact, plastic marine debris is expected to outweigh ALL ocean fish by 2050 ... but the petrochemical industry has no plans to scale back production. Instead it is poised to increase global plastic production by more than 40% within the next 10 years! Ocean life is already, literally, drowning in the resulting plastic pollution. As I've participated in annual coastal cleanup projects over the years, I've noticed that Styrofoam is one of the most prolific sources of ocean plastic pollution. (According to CalTrans, expanded polystyrene accounts for some 15% of storm drain litter.) By expanding prohibitions on the use and distribution of single-use materials, including polystyrene, the proposed ordinance will reduce the amount of pollution that ends up in our surrounding environment, local waterways, in our ocean, on our beaches, in our food, and even in our own bodies.

As a scientist concerned with diminishing biodiversity who understands the severity of our nature and climate crises, and as a parent concerned with the impacts we are imposing on ourselves & our children as a result of short-term thinking and policy-making, it's never been more clear to me that we must quickly phase out our wasteful

plastic practices once and for all. We can no longer sanction products that are used only once but stay around FOREVER to pollute our residents, our food, and our public spaces.

The City of Thousand Oaks has had a long history of environmental stewardship. Our city is known as an area leader in the implementation of sustainability practices and for its foresightful planning for a sustainable future. Please vote to pass the Single-Use Disposable Plastics Ordinance to phase out non-recyclable single-use plastics, reduce demand for 'virgin' plastic ... and provide a model for even more cities to follow. We can and MUST do this!

Name (optional)	Community	Agenda #	In favor /Opposed	Written Comment
No name given	Not given	8A	In favor	I am in favor of approving proposal 7A
Rose Ann Witt	Thousand Oaks	8A	In favor	<p>Plastic trash is piling up everywhere ... in local roads, creeks, streams, and ocean waters. We all know that sea turtles mistake floating plastic for jellyfish; while fishes, whales and seabirds mistake small, colorful plastics for plankton. Resultantly, thousands of ocean creatures die annually from eating plastic debris.</p> <p>But the problem goes far deeper than the eye can see. Because plastic never fully decomposes, but merely breaks down into ever-smaller fragments, microscopic pieces float around suspended in surface and ocean waters, as well as in the air we breathe.</p> <p>So while we taxpayers are on the hook for cleaning-up the visible plastic pollution resulting from industry's artificially manufactured demand, microplastic pollution now lodges in the tissues of the fish, seafood, meat, and even the produce we eat, as well as inside our own organs ... where it absorbs chemical toxins.</p> <p>This unsustainable cycle of events endangers our public health as well as the natural world on which our interconnected web of life depends. We can no longer sanction products that are used only once but stay around FOREVER to contaminate our food, our public spaces, and our families.</p> <p>Please vote YES to make the Single-Use Disposable Plastics Ordinance city-wide law TODAY!</p>

Laura Maguire

From: Mary Freed <msmfreed@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 4:59 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: City Council Oct. 13 meeting

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I strongly support agenda item #8. T.O. should act promptly to prohibit the use, distribution, and sale of styrofoam products and single use plastic utensils & straws. Thank, You, Mary Freed