

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER AS “SKIP THE STRAW” MONTH

WHEREAS, P.L.202, c.117, signed into law on November 4, 2020 is the most progressive single use plastics law in the country, with the goal of phasing out single-use plastics and enacting a by-request-only mandate for plastic straws throughout New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey is working to reduce reliance on single-use products to ensure that future generations have a clean and healthy environment to live, work, and recreate in; and

WHEREAS, approximately one-third of all plastics produced are single-use plastics, which are plastics designed to be used only once and then thrown away; and

WHEREAS, plastics released in the environment do not biodegrade, but instead break down into smaller pieces, known as microplastics, which accumulate in the natural environment and are eaten by fish and other marine life; and

WHEREAS, limiting the use of single-use plastic straws is an easy but significant step to reduce litter and protect NJ’s environment, wildlife, marine life and ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Clean Communities Council, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the New Jersey Department of State, policymakers, environmental and business groups, as well as other stakeholders, are working together to educate consumers, businesses, and communities about the new law and encouraging residents to "Skip the Straw" since the by-request-only ban on single-use plastic straws went into effect on November 4, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the *Skip the Straw* statewide public education campaign will convey to residents, businesses and visitors that single use plastic straws contribute to littering and is harmful to our environment and wildlife.

WHEREAS, this statewide public outreach campaign will establish a Vendor Clearinghouse to provide residents, businesses and visitors with information about the types of reusable and sustainable straws that they may use and where to access these products.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the [NAME OF MUNICIPALITY] that it is critical to begin educating the public and businesses about this new law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that one way to gain important recognition is to deem the month of November each year as “Skip the Straw” month in [NAME OF MUNICIPALITY], as a further reminder that all residents can bring their own reusable straws or “Skip the Straw” all together; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the NJ Clean Communities Council, and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.