

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA SUPPORTING THE INITIATIVES OF LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES IN FLORIDA TO LESSEN THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS ON OUR ENVIRONMENT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the City is diligent in its efforts to preserve the beautiful environment that supports the tourism industry which is so vital to the economy of the Marathon, the Florida Keys 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 city'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 city'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, City Council acknowledges that some businesses and organizations have taken affirmative steps to accomplish this goal and recognizes their proactive efforts; 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, City Council believes in municipal home rule whenever possible;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein.

Section 2. The City of Marathon is committed to the long-term goal of reducing the harms of plastic pollution on our fragile environment and committed to ensuring a thriving, attractive and safe environment for current and future residents and tourists.

Section 3. City Council does hereby support initiatives to lessen the negative impact of single-use plastic bags specifically, and supports the promotion of reusable shopping bags as the best alternative to single-use plastic or single-use paper bags.

Section 4. City Council supports the State Legislature's proposed action to allow local municipalities in the State of Florida to regulate their own local communities in an effort to alleviate the harms caused by single-use shopping bags; and, therefore, City Council opposes any statewide preemption on local efforts to determine the best course of action with regards to protection of the local environment and tourism economy.

Section 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, THIS 24th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2015

THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA



Mayor Chris Bull

AYES: Keating, Kelly, Senmartin, Zieg, Bull
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

ATTEST:



Diane Clavier, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE USE AND RELIANCE OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA ONLY:



City Attorney