

1 **[SAN FRANCISCO COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT**
2 **RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE THE SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF**
3 **SUPERVISORS TO ADOPT A REUSABLE FOOD SERVICE WARE**
4 **ORDINANCE TO ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY SINGLE USE FOOD**
5 **SERVICE WARE WASTE]**

6

7 WHEREAS, The production, distribution, consumption, and disposal of
8 single-use food service ware and beverage packaging, typically used for only a few
9 minutes before being discarded, has a significant environmental impact; and

10 WHEREAS, Disposable single-use food service ware and beverage
11 packaging substantially contributes to hard-to-recycle wastes generated each year
12 and comprises approximately one quarter of California's disposed waste stream
13 annually; and

14 WHEREAS, This waste generation exacerbates climate change through
15 substantial greenhouse gas emissions, litter, marine pollution, environmental
16 contamination, harm to wildlife, the depletion of precious natural resources, and
17 the generation of hard-to-manage waste; and

18 WHEREAS, Low-income communities and communities of color are
19 disproportionately affected by health impacts associated with chemicals and
20 plastics migrating from food packaging due to the lack of access to fresh and
21 unpackaged food, as well as the health hazards associated with living on the fence
22 line of plastics-related extraction, processing and disposal facilities; and

23 WHEREAS, Pre-pandemic, restaurants and foodservice businesses in the
24 U.S. spent \$24 billion on disposable or non-reusable food service ware each year
25 and the use of non-reusable food service ware in the food service sector increased
26 dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic as takeout and delivery became the
27 most common form of prepared food service; and

1 WHEREAS, Prioritizing reduction and reuse of packaging can provide huge
2 economic, environmental, and social benefits and is consistent with the Integrated
3 Solid Waste Management hierarchy that places reduce and reuse above recycling
4 and disposal; and

5 WHEREAS, The Environment Department encourages consumers to switch
6 from single-use disposables to reusables and has piloted a technical and financial
7 assistance program for local businesses to encourage them to switch to reusable
8 food service ware; and

9 WHEREAS, The Environment Department surveyed 68 businesses that
10 participated in the program to help food service businesses city-wide transition to
11 reusable food service ware for on-site dining, and found that 93% of surveyed
12 businesses currently utilize the reusables purchased via the program and plan to
13 continue to utilize reusables in the future; and

14 WHEREAS, 77% of surveyed businesses expressed support for a policy
15 requiring reuse for on-site dining in San Francisco and identified reducing waste,
16 saving money, and increasing customer satisfaction as top reasons for committing
17 to reusable food service ware; and

18 WHEREAS, A similar program (“Rethink Disposable”) worked with
19 hundreds of food service businesses in the San Francisco Bay Area and found that
20 all of them were able to gain net cost savings as a result of switching to reusable
21 food service ware for on-site dining after a pay-back period; and

22 WHEREAS, Full-scale implementation of reuse for on-site dining and reuse
23 for take-out food service ware in cities is estimated to achieve an 86% reduction in
24 disposable food service ware, equal to 841 billion food packaging items
25 eliminated, 7.5 million tons of waste avoided, and \$5 billion in net savings for the
26 food service ware industry for food service operations; now, therefore be it,

1 RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment requests that the
2 Board of Supervisors support policies requiring on-site reusables, acceptance of
3 customers own cup/mug/container, itemization of food service ware accessories for
4 online ordering, and lastly, requiring reusable and returnable cups at large stadiums
5 and venues; and be it,

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment finds
7 that the City and County of San Francisco and its citizens and business would
8 benefit from the adoption of a reusable food service ware ordinance that codifies
9 these requirements and is fully operative by 2024.

10 I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Commission on the
11 Environment at its regular meeting on March 28, 2023.

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14 Kyle Wehner, Commission Affairs Officer

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16 Vote: Approved 5-0

17 Ayes: Commissioners Wan, Bermejo, Hunter, Sullivan, and Wald

18 Noes: None

19 Absent: Commissioners Ahn and Stephenson