# CORRESPONDENCE FROM 04/26/2016 MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

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FW: Polystyrene Food Packaging Ordinance

----Original Message----

From: B Sword [mailto:bjsword@earthlink.net]

Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2016 1:29 PM

To: Tornek, Terry; McAustin, Margaret; Wilson, Andy Cc: De La Cuba, Vannia; Gordo, Victor; Go, Michael Subject: Polystyrene Food Packaging Ordinance

**Dear Council Members:** 

I'm writing to express my support for the Polystyrene Food Packaging Ordinance to be presented at the Municipal Services Committee today.

I have spent many hours picking up styrofoam containers from streets and streams and parks, and seen mounds of styrofoam placed in trash bins after events. Knowing that this material will never biodegrade, I strongly urge you to move this ordinance forward so that Pasadena can join over 90 other progressive California cities in banning this material.

Thank you.

Betty Sword
1155 Heather Square
Pasadena CA 91104

To:

Go, Michael

Subject:

RE: Styrofoam Ban

From: Therese Brummel [mailto:theresegbrum@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 9:09 AM

To: McAustin, Margaret; Morales, Margo; Go, Michael; Castro, Susana; Tornek, Terry; Wilson, Andy; Thyret, Pam; Stone,

Rhonda

Cc: Silva, Gabriel

Subject: Styrofoam Ban

Dear Councilwoman McAustin, Mayor Tornek and Councilman Wilson,

As the issue of Styrofoam comes to Municipal Services Committee again soon I reflect on the economy of this issue which seems to have been a stumbling block for MSC.

1) We banned plastic bags, a great model. Stores became creatively resourceful.

Charge 10 cents for a bag.

Rebate 10 cents customers who bring their own bag.

Put a sign in the parking lot to remember your bag.

Sell reusable bags

Coffee shops rebate 10 cents for customers who bring their own reusable cup.

All these solutions can be applied to Styrofoam business education. Some can be profitable!

- 2) The Public Works Dept has estimated the cost of not using Styrofoam at over \$4000 per year. But a local independent study of a restaurant that serves 300 meals a day estimates \$1400 per year. And CleanWater.org puts the estimate at only \$400 per year. The cost will be extremely variable from one establishment to the next, but not likely as high as the PPW estimates. And the restaurants who already have switched will no longer have the penalty of the extra charge since the market will be equalized with all members paying for the same non styrofoam items.
- 3) The city staff have been paid a lot of salary dollars investigating this issue. I prefer that not one more of my tax dollars be spent on this issue and that you move it for approval to City Council ASAP.
- 4) The non-money economy: Many volunteer hours have now been absorbed bringing this issue to the citizens of Pasadena, raising this campaign to counter the lobbyists, and press MSC to move the issue forward. This frustrates me. I think you would agree that there are so many issues that volunteer hours, precious life energy, could be better spent on.

Please approve the most comprehensive Styrofoam ban on April 26 and urge Council to do the same. Thank you for your service to the citizens of this city.

Sincerely, Therese Brummel District 2 resident for 37 years Transition Pasadena co-founder

Repair Cafe Pasadena founder...35 events saving more than 2000 items from the landfill since 2012.



RE: Ban Styrofoam (polystyrene)

April 24, 2016

Pasadena, CA 91109

City of Pasadena Councilmember 100 N. Garfield Avenue, Room S228

Dear Councilmember Welson

	As a member of All Saints Church in Pasadena, I am part of a faith tradition that is committed to caring for God's creation. I support the phase-out of single use polystyrene products to work towards a more sustainable Pasadena.
	Styrofoam (polystyrene) food packaging such as single-use cups, plates, straws and forks is a wasteful, unhealthy, and easily-replaceable source of non-biodegradable trash. Polystyrene food packaging is easily blown into public spaces, and very difficult to recycle. In fact, the City of Pasadena's waste hauler - the Allan Company - does NOT recycle polystyrene due to its lack of value.
	A 2011 study found that 71% of all the plastic flowing through the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers is polystyrene foam. One of the most common types of trash that gets into the Arroyo Seco is polystyrene, mostly takeout containers and cups, and especially after events at the Rose Bowl. Polystyrene makes its way to the ocean where it contributes to the ever-increasing amount of plastic pollution. It harms/kills animals, including fish and birds, because they cannot digest it, so they starve to death when their stomachs are full of plastic, including polystyrene. We do not know the long-term consequences of eating fish that have eaten polystyrene.
	One of Styrofoam's components, styrene, is a known hazardous substance that releases toxins into food when Styrofoam products are used in reheating. The US EPA acknowledges that styrene can have serious impacts on human health, wildlife and the aquatic environment because the product breaks down, contaminating food and entering the food chain when ingested by marine life.
	Polystyrene is made from oil. The entire process of extracting the oil, manufacturing the polystyrene, the retail-wholesale process, disposing of polystyrene, and cleaning it up out of the environment is extremely expensive, toxic, and inefficient. All of this for an item that is used for a few minutes.
-	Over 90 California cities and counties including Manhattan Beach, Santa Monica, Dana Point, Newport Beach, Ojai, San Luis Obispo and Oakland have adopted local policies banning polystyrene and requiring use of recyclable or compostable alternatives. The cost differential between polystyrene and other types of containers is small or non-existent.
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	Sincerely, (Sign & Print Name) Amelia Perez Silvermace  Address 1615 Rose Villa St.
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Pasadena, CA

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Pasadena, CA 91109

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Address // 0/5 // 0/56	e Villa St	Pasadena, CA 91106	_



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City of Pasadena Councilmember \_\_

100 N. Garfield Avenue, Room S228

Pasadena, CA 91109

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Sincerely, (Sign & Print Name)

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Pasaders, CA

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Pasadre, CA 91106

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	Sincerely, (Sign & Print Name) Hope Hendricks-Bacon Hope Hendricks-Bacon
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City of Pasadena Councilmember

100 N. Garfield Avenue, Room S228

Pasadena, CA 91109

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April 24, 2016
City of Pasadena Councilmember Willson  100 N. Garfield Avenue, Room S228  Pasadena, CA 91109
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Pasadena, CA 91109		
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Sincerely, (Sign & Print Name)	rano Juliana Serrano
Address 175 S. Lake Ave # )	314
Pasadena, CA 9110	



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	Address_ 711 G. Meroby Ave.
	Pasadera, CA 9110



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100 N. Garfield Avenue, Room S228	
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Pasadena wants to reduce the amount of trash going into landfills. Its goal is zero waste by 2040. Furthermore, the city is legally required to keep its trash from entering its waterways. Thus, a ban on polystyrene will help contribute to a more sustainable Pasadena. I urge the City of Pasadena to join the growing number of cities in phasing out single-use Styrofoam (polystyrene) and requiring the use of healthier recyclable/compostable alternatives.

Sincerely, (Sign & Print Name)	lawa 1 De	mitt Laure Garrett
Address 7/1	S. Menter Av	e
Pasad	era, CA 911	06



April 24, 2016
City of Pasadena Councilmember <u>Andry Welson</u> 100 N. Garfield Avenue, Room S228
Pasadena, CA 91109
RE: Ban Styrofoam (polystyrene)  Dear Councilmember
As a member of All Saints Church in Pasadena, I am part of a faith tradition that is committed to caring for God's creation. I support the phase-out of single use polystyrene products to work towards a more sustainable Pasadena.
Styrofoam (polystyrene) food packaging such as single-use cups, plates, straws and forks is a wasteful, unhealthy, and easily-replaceable source of non-biodegradable trash. Polystyrene food packaging is easily blown into public spaces, and very difficult to recycle. In fact, the City of Pasadena's waste hauler - the Allan Company - does NOT recycle polystyrene due to its lack of value.
A 2011 study found that 71% of all the plastic flowing through the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers is polystyrene foam. One of the most common types of trash that gets into the Arroyo Seco is polystyrene, mostly takeout containers and cups, and especially after events at the Rose Bowl. Polystyrene makes its way to the ocean where it contributes to the ever-increasing amount of plastic pollution. It harms/kills animals, including fish and birds, because they cannot digest it, so they starve to death when their stomachs are full of plastic, including polystyrene. We do not know the long-term consequences of eating fish that have eaten polystyrene.
One of Styrofoam's components, styrene, is a known hazardous substance that releases toxins into food when Styrofoam products are used in reheating. The US EPA acknowledges that styrene can have serious impacts on human health, wildlife and the aquatic environment because the product breaks down, contaminating food and entering the food chain when ingested by marine life.
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Sincerely, (Sign & Print Name) AUDRAL WALL DAVID R. MASON
Address 221 S, Oak Knoll Av. #104

Pasadena, CA 91101



City of Pasadena Councilmember <u>Gudy Wilson</u>

100 N. Garfield Avenue, Room S228

Pasadena, CA 91109

RE: Ban Styrofoam (polystyrene)

Dear Councilmember_	Wilson	٠	
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Since	rely,		
(Sign	& Pr	int N	lame)_

385 Se. CATALINA AVE

MARC HAMILTON

Address

MADENA, CA 91106



RE: Ban Styrofoam (polystyrene)

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April 24, 2016

Pasadena, CA 91109

Dear Councilmember

City of Pasadena Councilmember 2100 N. Garfield Avenue, Room S228

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,	Sincerely, (Sign & Print Name) 1 cillibra Suth
	Address 945 S. Marcings Ave # 1
	Pasadens Cl 91106



April 24, 2016	
City of Pasadena Councilmember Wude	x Welson
100 N. Garfield Avenue, Room S228	,
Pacadena CA 91100	

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Sincerely (Sign & P	, rint Name)	Mara	atl	nasa	Mag	good	Mar	m .	
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### Jomsky, Mark

From:

Juliana Serrano < JSerrano@allsaints-pas.org>

Sent:

Tuesday, April 26, 2016 8:10 AM

To:

Tornek, Terry

Cc:

Jomsky, Mark; Mermell, Steve

Subject:

Support - Single Use Polystyrene Ban

**Attachments:** 

LetterTornekPolystyrene.pdf

### **Dear Mayor Tornek:**

Please accept the attached letters/signatures from more than 195 persons who worship, play, work, and/or live in Pasadena and would like to see the Municipal Services Committee and the Pasadena City Council ban the use and sale of single use polystyrene products in our city.

We understand that the Municipal Services Committee will be discussing this matter today. These signatures should be entered as public comment for the record.

In addition, our various council members will receive a total of more than 60 personalized letters – all expressing support of the proposed ban.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you, Juliana

Juliana Serrano
Senior Associate
Peace & Justice and the Office for Creative Connections
All Saints Church
132 N. Euclid Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101
626.583.2731

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.

## Jomsky, Mark

From:

Teresa Mei Chuc <teresa.meichuc@goddard.edu>

Sent:

Monday, April 25, 2016 5:58 PM

To:

McAustin, Margaret; Tornek, Terry; Wilson, Andy; Go, Michael; Jomsky, Mark; Flores, Valerie;

and the committee of the second

Silva, Gabriel; Madison, Steve; Hampton, Tyron; Masuda, Gene; Gordo, Victor; Kennedy,

John

Subject:

Support a Healthier, More Sustainable Pasadena

Dear Pasadena Council Members,

Pasadena is my home. From the age of two and a half, I grew up in Pasadena, I was raised by Pasadena. I attended Hamilton Elementary School and then Marshall Fundamental Junior/Senior High School where I graduated. I think the city of Pasadena played a major role in shaping me as a person, as a human being aware/conscious of her community, the earth and our place in it.

Naturally, I believe that Pasadena should be a styrofoam free city. In doing so, it will send a message to future generations, to our children, that we care about them, that we are indeed stewards of the earth and will lead the way in making this planet a cleaner, safer, healthier place for its plants and creatures.

I imagine the children of Pasadena, the age I was decades ago, growing, absorbing, learning. Passing a bill that can ensure that Pasadena be styrofoam free will send a strong message to our youth and to each person, creature, river, ocean that they are important and worth protecting.

We can pay the small price for more sustainable options other than styrofoam now so that our children, their children, the earth and its creatures will not have to pay a more costly price. What we do in our powers as adults, we communicate our children what they mean to us and what kind of earth we want to leave for them. A clean and thriving earth, healthy creatures unharmed by pollutants such as plastics and styrofoam, a healthy ecosystem is the greatest inheritance we can leave for our children and future generations.

Thank you for listening.

Best regards,

Teresa Mei Chuc, English teacher
John F. Kennedy High School
Architecture, Digital Design, Filmmaking Magnet
11254 Gothic Avenue
Granada Hills, CA 91344

Home:

3343 East Del Mar Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91107

Email: teresameichuc@gmail.com



April 26, 2016

Pasadena Municipal Services Committee 100 N. Garfield Ave. Pasadena, CA 91109

mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net; ttornek@cityofpasadena.net; awilson@cityofpasadena.net; mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net

VIA EMAIL

Re: Polystyrene Ban

Dear Members of the Pasadena Municipal Services Committee,

On behalf of Heal the Bay, we submit the following comments regarding the City of Pasadena's proposed Polystyrene ban. Heal the Bay is an environmental organization with over 15,000 members dedicated to making the coastal waters and watersheds of greater Los Angeles safe, healthy, and clean. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments.

Heal the Bay supports a vote by the Pasadena City Council to eliminate the use of single-use polystyrene from its businesses. According to Pasadena's Zero Waste Strategic Plan, recommended initiative #2 is an implementation of product and disposal bans, with the example being polystyrene food packaging. Initiating the proposed ordinance will be in lockstep with the City of Pasadena Department of Public Works' Strategic Plan. If council members truly want to be zero waste, they should bite the proverbial polystyrene bullet, and ban single-use polystyrene containers.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at (310) 451-1500.

Sincerely.

Steven Johnson

Water Resources Policy Analyst

Heal the Bay

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> City of Pasadena Department of Public Works (2014, October). *Zero Waste Strategic Plan.* p. 4. Retrieved from file:///C:/Users/sjohnson/Downloads/Pasadena%20Zero%20Waste%20Strategic%20Plan.pdf

# Jomsky, Mark

From:

Morey Wolfson <moreywolfson@aol.com>

Sent:

Monday, April 25, 2016 12:25 AM

To:

Go, Michael; Jomsky, Mark

Subject:

Letter in support of MSC moving the polystyrene ordinance to the Council

April 25, 2016

To:

Municipal Services Committee Chairwoman Councilmember Margaret McAustin

Honorable Mayor Terry Tornek Councilmember Andy Wilson

From: Morey Wolfson

It is my pleasure to send you this message in support of the proposed ordinance on polystyrene foam food and beverage containers.

Passage of the ordinance will be a strategic advantage to Pasadena. It will be a strong addition to your list of elements that tout the City' environmental brand. Passage of the ordinance will create the opportunity to distinguish Pasadena as a zero waste pathfinder in the San Gabriel Valley, which could potentially lead Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles to do much the same.

With our new highly qualified Public Works Director, the Council's policy frameworks can create the dynamic for Mr. Maloyan and his staff to serve as role models in support of regional zero waste initiatives.

Following passage of the ordinance, your leadership will send a clear message that we need a stronger regional discussion on how well-crafted ordinances can make a significant dent in controlling the very real public and environmental costs of polystyrene. With passage, I envision that Pasadena will have an authentic place from which to speak on the subject when it appears on the agenda of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments. After implementation, Council Members, the City Manager's office, and Mr. Maloyan will have a tangible story to tell when collaborating and coordinating with governments in the region.

The other benefit of passage is that it would provide Pasadena leaders with the credibility to champion the zero waste topics in front of what will be a newly-constituted **Board of Supervisors**. As you may know, in 2011 the Supervisors declined to extend the boundaries of a polystyrene ban beyond county facilities <u>because they wanted the cover of a statewide ban to be enacted</u>. Thanks to an infusion of a lot of DART money in Sacramento, that did not happen.

# About DART's money:

As you may know, DART is a heavy-hitter when it comes to campaign contributions. With Ken Dart's worth estimated at \$6.6 billion, and with Dart owning 25% of the property on the Cayman Islands, it is a trifling expense item for DART to give approximately \$500,000 per year in aggregate to California office holders. The contributions help keep policy-makers at bay and "really confused about the recyclability question." With environmentally sensitive bellwether State of California kept perpetually at bay when it comes to polystyrene, DART's \$500,000 California political pay-off undoubtedly yields the company's highest internal ROI.

Since DART's legislative victory in 2011, the polystyrene topic has remained somewhat dormant at the Board of Supervisors. There is hope that zero waste champions will emerge on what will be a newly-constituted

Board. Potential champions would be substantially strengthened to move the Board forward when they can point to a model like Pasadena that exercised the political will to directly address the issue.

Thank you for considering these opinions.

With deep appreciation for what I know you do each and every day for this city that you love!

### Jomsky, Mark

From:

Morey Wolfson <moreywolfson@aol.com>

Sent:

Tuesday, April 26, 2016 11:16 AM

To:

Jomsky, Mark; McAustin, Margaret; Tornek, Terry; Wilson, Andy; Maloyan, Ara; Silva, Gabriel;

Mermell, Steve

Subject: Attachments: April 26 2016 - MSC meeting - Critique of Staff's Survey of Cost Impact to Restaurants

Wolfson analysis of Staff polystyrene report.docx

To:

Councilmember Margaret McAustin, Chair, Municipal Services Committee

Mayor Terry Tornek, Member, MSC

Councilmember Andy Wilson, Member, MSC

Mark Jomsky, City Clerk

CC:

Ara Maloyan, P.E., Director, Department of Public Works

Gabe Silva, Environmental Manager, Department of Public Works

Steve Mermell, Interim City Manager

From: Morey Wolfson, Pasadena resident

Date: April 26, 2016

Subject: Proposed Polystyrene Food Packaging Ordinance

Agenda Report (AR) prepared by Department of Public Works Staff, dated May 9, 2016 (December 8, 2015 and April 26)

I have prepared the attached analysis and critique of Staff's statement in the AR.

Thank you for your consideration of this information at today's meeting.

### MEMORANDUM

To: Councilmember Margaret McAustin, Chair, Municipal Services Committee
Mayor Terry Tornek, Member, MSC
Councilmember Andy Wilson, Member, MSC
Mark Jomsky, City Clerk

CC: Ara Maloyan, P.E., Director, Department of Public Works Gabe Silva, Environmental Manager, Department of Public Works Steve Mermell, Interim City Manager

From: Morey Wolfson, Pasadena resident

Date: April 26, 2016

Subject: Proposed Polystyrene Food Packaging Ordinance
Agenda Report (AR) prepared by Department of Public Works Staff, dated May 9,
2016 (December 8, 2015 and April 26)

I have prepared this analysis and critique of Staff's statement in the AR.

This is the sole area of my critique of Staff's AR:

Staff states:

"In addition to the telephone survey, staff conducted a price comparison in the field on polystyrene packaging versus available alternative packaging. The unit costs were determined to be three cents for polystyrene versus seven cents for a comparable alternative product. This equates to estimating annual costs of the following for businesses to convert to alternative packaging."

Restaurant Type	Annual Financial Impact
Primary Dine In	\$840 to \$2,400
Dine in and Takeout	\$3,200 to \$4,800
Primary Takeout	\$7,200 to \$16,800
Grocery/Retailers and others	Negligible

# I make these points:

- 1. Staff did not make an attempt to conduct a cost/benefit analysis.
- 2. Staff's study of the container cost difference is suspect.
- 3. Staff's numbers do not place any additional container cost burden in to context, such as impact on annual revenue.
- 4. Staff's table could not only be off by as much as 400%, Staff's analysis made no effort to put any price increase into context.

# 1. Staff did not make an attempt to conduct a cost/benefit analysis.

It is important to point out that Staff's financial analysis made no attempt to quantify the dollar benefits associated with better environmental performance in Pasadena or taxpayer savings. It is not as if these benefits and savings don't exist. There is a very real cost to any City in actual dollars to chase after polystyrene, and Departments of Public Works across the globe know this first hand. But it is totally missing from Staff's analysis.

Of course, dollar signs in a staff document really fly off the page. The only dollar signs that Staff presents to the MSC is the supposed increased cost to the restaurants.

# 2. Staff's study of the container cost difference is suspect.

Recognize that Staff has seen Clean Water Action's cost difference survey, which estimates an average cost difference of \$.01 per container. That said, staff elected to reject CWA's study in favor of their own research, which has not been subject to review by outside sources such as myself. In addition, staff's field report included results reported by restaurants. Staff has assumed that there is a \$.04 difference in container cost.

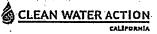
It should be understood after reading letters sent to the City from 125 Pasadena Styrofoam restaurants, that these restaurants felt no restraint to over-inflate their fears of absorbing any minimum expense. So frankly, I think relying on "reports" from these DART-led Styrofoam restaurants ought to be viewed with a very large grain of salt.

If it turns out that had an independent verification proved that CWA's cost comparison survey was correct, and Staff's cost comparison was wrong, then Staff's \$.04 stated cost difference survey could be inflated by as much as four-fold. On top of that, as CWA notes, "lower prices- up to 25% less" than the \$.01 cost difference, "may be obtainable through cooperative purchasing."

# Polystyrene Foam Take-Out Packaging and Price Comparable Alternatives

Product	Polystyrene Product		Unit Cost	Non-Foam Product		Unit Cost	CostDifference
10 oz Cold Gup 10 oz Hot Gup	Foam - Dart Container 1000 ct Foam - Dart Container 1000 ct		\$0.02 \$0.02	Plastic - Dart Container 2500 ct Paper - Choice 1000 ct	\$60.96 \$36.53	\$0.02 \$0.04	\$0.00 \$0.02
12 oz Gold Gup 12 oz Hot Gup	Foam - Dart Container 1000 ct Foam - Dart Container 1000 ct		\$0.02 \$0.02	Plastic - Dart Container 1000 ct Paper - Choice 1000 ct	\$24.90 \$40.39	\$0.02 \$0.04	50.00 \$0.02
16 oz Cold Cup 16 oz Hot Cup	Foam – Dart Container 1000 ct Foam – Dart Container 1000 ct	•	\$0.03 \$0.03	Plastic - Dart Container 1000 ct Paper - Choice 1000 ct	\$35.37 \$44.03	\$0.03 \$0.04	\$0.00 \$0.01
12 oz Bowi	Foam - Dart Container 500 ct	\$17 <i>6</i> 3	<b>\$0.03</b>	Plastic - Genpek: 1000ct	\$48.99	\$0.05	50.02
16 oz Bowl	Foam - Dart Container 500 ct	\$19.65	\$0.04	Plastic - Genpak 1000ct	\$63.99	\$0.06	\$0.02
6" Plate	Foam – Dart Container 1000 ct	\$13.08	\$0.01	Paper - AJM Packaging 1000 ct	<b>\$7.53</b>	\$0.007	\$0.00
9" Plate	Foam - Dart Container 500 ct	\$19.37	<b>\$0.04</b>	Paper - AJM Packaging 1000 ct	\$11.49	\$0.01	(\$0.03)
6" Hinge Container	Foam – Dart Container: 500 ct	\$17.13	<b>\$0.03</b>	Plastic - Dart 500ct	\$28.18	\$0.06	\$0.03
9" Hinge Container	Foam - Dart Container 200 ct	\$12 <i>.</i> 64	\$0.06	Plastic – Duralock 250ct	\$25.94	\$0.10	\$0.04
e man men y primjer par vider i innere er e parkulaine. Ta che viji Talagerija i Aliji i i i i	411		m1	Avera	ge Cost	Difference	5001

Lower prices (up to 25% less) may be obtainable through cooperative purchasing.



3. Staff's numbers do not place any additional container cost burden in to context, such as impact on annual revenue.

# A. Restaurant Type-Primary Dine-In

Staff has presumed that the financial impact ranges between \$840 and \$2,400

First we analyze this busy **Primary Dine-In** restaurant, with the highest cost impact of \$2,400 per year.

# My assumptions:

- The restaurant is open 6 days a week, 50 weeks a year, which equals 300 days per year.
- At a cost difference of \$.04 per container, this equals 60,000 containers dispensed per year.
- Divide 60,000 containers by 300 days per year.
- That results in 200 take-out containers dispensed each day.
- Assume that 50% of the diners ask for a takeout container. (This could be a high or low estimate. I expect it is high, but I selected to use 50% to simplify the math and discussion).
- With 50% of the customers using take out containers, which would result in that restaurant serving 400 customers per day.
- Assume the average price of a meal at this hypothetical busy Primary Dine-In restaurant is \$12. (I think the average price of a meal in Pasadena may be higher, but to keep the math and discussion simple, stick with \$12.)
- Assume that each day, 400 customers will pay an average of \$12 for their meals.
- Multiply  $400 \times $12 \times 300$  days. That equals \$1,440,000 per year in gross revenues.
- Divide the proposed high end of \$2,400 in additional annual container cost by the gross annual revenue of \$1,440,000.
- The additional cost for non-polystyrene containers represents a 0.16 percent cost burden to be applied against the restaurant's annual revenue.
  - If CWA's survey is correct, then one fourth of the 0.16 would result in a .04 percent cost burden.

Next, we conduct the same exercise for a hypothetical **not-so-busy Primary Dine-**In restaurant using Staff's low end estimate for the extra cost of the takeout container, estimated to be \$840.

- Divide that \$840 in additional cost by the gross revenues of \$1,440,000.
- That would represent a 0.058 percent cost burden to be applied against the restaurant's annual revenue.
  - o If CWA's survey is correct, then one fourth of that cost burden would be a 0145 percent cost burden.

# B. Restaurant Type- Dine-in and Takeout

Staff has presumed that the financial impact ranges between \$3,200 and \$4,800

First, we analyze the high end Staff estimate of the extra cost for non-polystyrene at \$4,800 per year at a hypothetical busy Dine-in and Takeout restaurant.

# My assumptions:

- At \$.04 per container, this would equal 120,000 containers dispensed per year.
- The restaurant is open 6 days a week, 50 weeks a year, which equals 300 days per year.
- Divide the 120,000 containers by 300 days per year.
- That results in 400 take-out containers dispensed each day.
- Since this is a **Dine-in and Takeout** restaurant, assume that 66% of the diners ask for a takeout container. The other customers are assumed to dine in and are not using take-out containers. (The 66% estimate could be a high or low I expect high. But I selected 66% to simplify both the math and the discussion).
- If 400 take-out containers are dispensed per day, then we will assume that the restaurant serves 600 customers per day.
- Assume the average price of a meal at this busy hypothetical **Dine-in and Takeout** restaurant is \$12. (I think it may be higher in Pasadena, but to keep the math and discussion simple, stick with \$12.)
- Assume that each day, 600 customers will pay an average of \$12 for their meals.
- Multiply 600 customers times \$12 per meal, times 300 days per year. That equals \$2,160,000 per year in gross revenues.
- Divide the \$4,800 in additional container cost by the gross revenues of \$2,160,000.
- The additional cost for the non-polystyrene containers represents a 0.22 percent cost burden to be applied against the restaurant's annual revenue.
   If CWA's survey is correct, then one fourth of that cost burden would be a .055 percent cost burden.

Next, we do the same exercise using Staff's low end of the extra cost at this not-so-busy hypothetical Dine-in and Takeout, namely \$3,200 per year.

- Divide the \$3,200 in additional cost by the gross revenues of \$2,160,000.
- That would represent a 0:14 percent cost burden to be applied against the restaurant's annual revenue.
  - o If CWA's survey is correct, then one fourth of that cost burden would be a .035 percent cost/burden.

C. Restaurant Type-Primary Takeout

Staff has presumed that the financial impact ranges between \$7,200 and \$16,800

First, we analyze the high end of the assumed extra cost of \$16,800 as estimated by Staff.

My assumptions:

- At \$.04 per container, this would equal 420,000 containers dispensed per year.
- This busy **Primary Takeout** restaurant is open 6 days a week, 50 weeks a year, which equals 300 days per year.
- If 100% of the customers use takeout containers, this hypothetical restaurant will have 420,000 customers per year, or 1,400 customers a day.
- Assume the average price of a meal at this hypothetical **Primary Takeout** restaurant is \$10. (I don't know the actual average price for a meal at a primary takeout restaurant, but to keep the math and discussion simple, I have selected \$10.)
- Assume that each day, 1,400 customers will pay an average of \$10 for their meal.
- Multiply 1,400 customers time \$10 times 300 days per year. That equals \$4,200,000 per year in gross revenues.
- Divide the \$16,800 in additional cost by the gross revenues of \$4,200,000.
- The additional cost represents a 0.4 percent cost burden to be applied against the restaurant's annual revenue.
  - o If CWA's survey is correct, then one fourth of that cost burden would result in a .1 percent cost burden.

Next we conduct the same exercise using Staff's estimate of the low end of the extra cost, namely \$7,200.

- Divide that \$7,200 in additional cost by the gross revenues of \$4,200,000.
- That would represent a 0.17 percent cost burden to be applied against the restaurant's annual revenue.

If CWA's survey is correct, then one fourth of that cost burden would result in a .0425 percent cost burden. My fourth point: Staff's table could not only be off by as much as 400%, Staff's analysis made no effort to put any price increase into context.

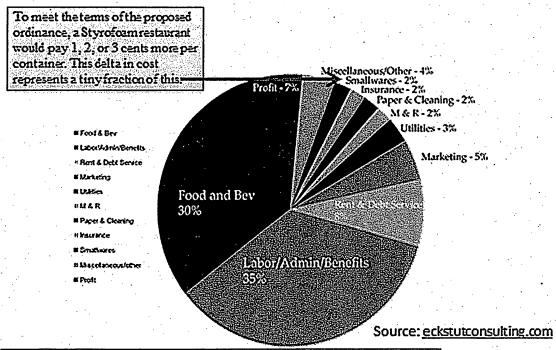
Consider how Staff's table appears as a stand-alone piece of data for decision-makers.

Restaurant Type	Annual Financial Impact
Primary Dine In	\$840 to \$2,400
Dine in and Takeout	\$3,200 to \$4,800
Primary Takeout	\$7,200 to \$16,800
Grocery/Retailers and others	Negligible

The table raises some eyebrows, doesn't it? Especially the \$16,800. The decision-makers might get a little anxious, especially when viewing a \$16,800 figure. That's the kind of figure that a newspaper reporter would immediately jump on to lead a story to help catch the reader's attention.

Staff's table is likely to be a whole lot more interesting to the media than the one that I produced below, which attempts to put any cost increases into context. I produced the chart to help disabuse decision-makers of DART-inspired ideas about "devastating impacts."

# Illustrative Restaurant Cost Structure



(Assuming that you don't know this source, so don't trust it
Build your own pie chart using your own assumptions, and you will draw similar conclusions.)

To:

Castro, Susana

Cc:

Go, Michael

Subject:

RE: Pasadena Polystyrene Ban

From: Robert Brummel [mailto:ribrummel@yahoo.com] 

Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 10:02 AM

To: Tornek, Terry; McAustin, Margaret; Wilson, Andy

Cc: Morales, Margo; Castro, Susana Subject: Pasadena Polystyrene Ban

Dear Mayor Tornek and Councilmembers McAustin and Wilson,

I'm writing to you to add my voice in support of the proposed polystyrene ban in the city of Pasadena.

I know you have received a lot of public comment, reports and information in favor of the action. The research and statistics appear persuasive to me that 1) the continued use of polystyrene products poses a threat; 2) the substance isn't recyclable in actuality; 3) a ban, while it will result in a very slight rise in operating costs, will not result in the closure of or even any significant financial loss to any local businesses; and 4) if Pasadena truly wants to be a leading green city, we should join the scores of other municipalities around the country that have already taken this step, some of them decades ago.

And as the renowned essayist/poet/novelist/Kentucky farmer Wendell Berry has written, "All we can do to prepare rightly for tomorrow is to do the right things today."

Thank you for your consideration.

Robert Brummel District 2

### Jomsky, Mark

From: Sent:

Tom Brady <a href="mailto:sprain-right">brady <a href="mailto:sprain-right">brady <a href="mailto:sprain-right">brady <a href="mailto:sprain-right">brady <a href="mailto:sprain-right">brady <a href="mailto:sprain-right">sprain-right</a></a>
Thursday, April 07, 2016 8:51 AM

To:

McAustin, Margaret; Tornek, Terry; Wilson, Andy; Go, Michael; Jomsky, Mark; Flores,

Yolanda; Silva, Gabriel

Subject:

Pasadena Polystyrene Policy

On April 26, the Municipal Services Committee will be considering a ban on takeout polystyrene food containers in the City of Pasadena. I have long experienced the environmental hazards of polystyrene, both as the retired City of Glendale Recycling Coordinator and as a leader of cleanup efforts along the LA River and our coast. Polystyrene containers easily break into tiny pieces that litter our rivers, our coasts, and our recycling facilities. In the ocean, they are mistaken for food and lead to countless deaths of sea birds and other marine life. Contrary to opposition claims, such containers are not now recycled in the City's recycling programs, just as they are not recycled in Glendale.

As a resident of Pasadena and the chair of the environmental ministry of Pasadena's All Saints Episcopal Church, I urge you to approve the staff proposal to ban takeout polystyrene food containers. Tom Brady 1501 Poppy Peak Drive, Pasadena, 91105

Subject:

FW: Styrofoam ban

On 4/19/16, 9:18 PM, "Cynthia Frederick" < fargosmom1@gmail.com > wrote:

- >Esteemed City Council Members -
- >Please, please support the proposed ban on poystyrene containers for >takeout food in Pasadena. There are many, far better ways to get food >from one place to another without putting styrofoam into our waste >stream. Recycling is not the answer far too much of this type of >waste gets thrown out by consumers every day.
- >Old-school Chinese takeout boxes, pressed foil pans with paper lids, >and plain old paper wrap worked great for our parents and grandparents >when they wanted to take prepared food home with them. Those >containers are far more recyclable, as well as easier on the planet if >and when they don¹t quite make it into the recycling container.
- >End, once and for all, the needless use of styrofoam cups and >containers in Pasadena. Your children will thank you.
- >Respectfully,
- >Cynthia Frederick >CLUCKinPasadena

Subject:

FW: Styrofoam ban

----Original Message----

From: Cynthia Frederick [mailto:fargosmom1@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 9:18 PM

To: McAustin, Margaret; Tornek, Terry; Wilson, Andy; Go, Michael; Jomsky, Mark; Flores, Valerie; Silva, Gabriel;

Madison, Steve; Hampton, Tyron; Masuda, Gene; Gordo, Victor; Kennedy, John

Subject: re: Styrofoam ban

**Esteemed City Council Members -**

Please, please - support the proposed ban on poystyrene containers for takeout food in Pasadena. There are many, far better ways to get food from one place to another without putting styrofoam into our waste stream. Recycling is not the answer - far too much of this type of waste gets thrown out by consumers every day.

Old-school Chinese takeout boxes, pressed foil pans with paper lids, and plain old paper wrap worked great for our parents and grandparents when they wanted to take prepared food home with them. Those containers are far more recyclable, as well as easier on the planet if and when they don't quite make it into the recycling container.

End, once and for all, the needless use of styrofoam cups and containers in Pasadena. Your children will thank you.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Frederick CLUCKinPasadena

Subject:

FW: Polystyrene Ban in Pasadena - SUPPORT

From: Jonathan Klein [mailto:jonathandanielklein@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 11:39 AM

**To:** McAustin, Margaret **Cc:** Flores, Valerie

Subject: Re: Polystyrene Ban in Pasadena - SUPPORT.

Thank you, Ms. McAustin. I heard about and appreciate your willingness to call out the use of false advertising by opponents of the ban at a recent hearing/meeting. Thank you!

Best Wishes, Jonathan

On Wed, Apr 20, 2016 at 10:27 AM, McAustin, Margaret < mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net > wrote: Thank you for your email; it will become part of the public record.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 20, 2016, at 9:00 AM, Rabbi Jonathan Klein < jonathandanielklein@gmail.com > wrote:

Dear Esteemed Mayor and Councilmembers,

While you may know me as the director of CLUE: Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, I write to you as an environmentalist committed to protecting our planet. As you know, many cities have already passed styrofoam container bans; as a city committed to zero waste and protecting our delicate resources, it is time to FINISH this project and move on to the next level of our plans for the City.

Please pass the polystyrene container ban immediately!

We are well on our way, and the arguments to oppose this ban truly lack substance:

- "It will cost restaurants and businesses too much!" Nonsense!; so many restaurants already have moved away from the ever-existing styrofoam in favor of less environmentally destructive materials. They wouldn't do that if they couldn't afford it! Observe it yourself: Go to any store where they sell styrofoam cups and plates. 100 styrofoam cups might cost \$1.99; paper or even plastic cups will be \$4.99 at most. That means, conservatively, \$3 for every one hundred cups! That's a mere \$.03 per patron extra.
- "Styrofoam is recyclable!" Almost entirely false! The reality of styrofoam container use is that it is almost never clean (hence it being thrown away) and thus unrecyclable...and even if it were clean, the conditions for recycling this material are cost-prohibitive.
- "This will hurt the poor the most!" Again, not true...it will actually make the planet a little safer, a little less polluted, and the costs as pointed to above are minuscule.

The Dart Corporation is pouring money into Communities of Color to convince them to oppose the styrofoam ban; I should know because I have been approached by clergy for help with this pro-pollution campaign!

However, I know that you will do what is right. Please pass this styrofoam ban, IMMEDIATELY, so that City Council can get back to work making every effort to make this a sustainable community for all to live in with beauty and safety.

Blessings/Shalom,

Rabbi Jonathan Klein (with an affiliation at Throop UU Church in Pasadena)

Dear Chair McAustin, Mayor Tornek and Councilmember Wilson:

Our EAC commission members thank you for your diligence and commitment to ensuring that Pasadena's municipal services continue to be a model of excellence for all cities. By promoting a ban on expanded polystyrene (EPS) food containers, as have more than 90 other jurisdictions in California, Pasadena will demonstrate that it is indeed committed to its goal of being a green and sustainable city.

You are already well acquainted with arguments in favor and against a ban on EPS food containers. As an environmental advisory commission, we strongly support a ban on the food containers. Much evidence shows that EPS containers in the waste stream result in considerable harm to wildlife. Our comments below, however, focus on a key issue that you raised at your December 8, 2015 meeting. At that meeting, members of the MSC requested that Public Works provide "suggestions for mitigating impending impacts on small business owners." The following are suggestions for mitigating these impacts along with information about the positive effect of bans from other cities.

Cost of alternative containers. The issue of the increased costs of alternative containers looms larger than any other to small restaurant owners. All of the letters presented to the MSC and Public Works mention the burden of increased costs for such containers. (Representatives of Dart Industries solicited the letters and provided sample language). It is true that alternatives to the EPS containers cost more. However, a price comparison prepared by Clean Water Action, shows that the added cost is modest, only a few pennies a container. And large discounts can reduce these prices even further. It is worth noting that the plastic alternatives listed on the table are recyclable, unlike the EPS containers that end up in landfills.

More expensive alternatives than those shown in the attached table are available, but the proposed ordinance does not specify what types must be used. Most restaurants in Old Town and the Playhouse District already provide eco-friendly containers to their customers. Even a fast food company--In and Out Burger —has discontinued using EPS containers despite the additional cost. A representative of Lynsi Torres, owner of the popular take out chain, said that she discontinued using the containers because she "wanted to do the right thing." Many of Pasadena's residents also want the City to do the right thing. An on-line survey about the proposed ordinance shows that a large number of our residents want local restaurants to discontinue using EPS containers.

Bring your own containers. In addition to using inexpensive substitutes for polystyrene containers, restaurants can save money by urging their customers to bring their own containers. Doing so would not only reduce costs, but also reduce the amount of waste going to landfills. Both Santa Monica and Manhattan Beach have encouraged local restaurants to urge customers to bring

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Refer to attached table

their own containers, as people used to do. On its website, Manhattan Beach-says: "we encourage you to "Bring Your Own!" containers, reusable cups and mugs, straws, and utensils whenever you can." Restaurants in both Manhattan and Santa Monica offer incentives to those who do bring their own. On the national level, there is a campaign, "Take Out Without", that urges people to bring their own reusable containers to restaurants and to refuse disposable ones. The benefits of this practice are obvious: a reduction in the cost of providing containers and a reduction in the amount of waste taken to landfills.

Results of ordinances. A comprehensive survey of three cities—Portland, San Francisco, and Seattle—finds that there has been a high rate of compliance with their ordinances banning EPS food containers.<sup>2</sup> The same study also found a reduction in EPS litter. Seattle reported a "definite change" in litter. San Francisco found a 41% reduction. Portland has yet to report about litter reduction.

Recycling EPS containers. Many of the letters from restaurant owners opposed to a ban say that the containers are being recycled by the City. Dart Industries has promoted this claim, and their representatives have distributed "Rinse and Recycle" posters to scores of small restaurants in Pasadena. The posters claim that if customers rinse their containers, they will be recycled. The claim is false and Dart knows it. None of the waste haulers in Pasadena transport EPS food containers to recycling centers because it isn't economically feasible to do so. The containers end up in landfills where they reside forever.

Our Environmental Advisory Commission urges the MSC to support the draft ordinance banning single use EPS food containers by sending it to the full Council for its consideration. For many years, Pasadena has presented itself as a green city committed to the best practices in environmental sustainability. It is time that we join the other 90 plus jurisdictions in California that have banned EPS food containers and cups, both of which are major components of the waste that ends up on the beaches of southern California.

Respectfully yours,

Laura Garrett, Chair

**Environmental Advisory Commission** 

Lawa & Gant 4/14/16

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Master's Thesis (2012): An Assessment of Policies on Polystyrene Food Ware Bans by Linda Nguyen

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Product	Polystyrene Product		Unit Cost	Non-Foam Product		Unit Cost	Gost Difference
10 oz Cold Cup 10 oz Hot Cup	Foam - Dart Container 1000 et Foam - Dart Container 1000 et		\$0,02 \$0,02	Plastic - Dart Contamer 2500 et Paper - Choice 1000 et	860,96 \$16,53	\$0.02 \$0.04	\$0.00 \$0.02
12 oz Gold Cup 12 oz Hot Cup	Foam - Darr Container 1800 et Foam - Darr Container 1800 et		\$0.02 \$0.02	Plastic - Dart Contamer 1000-ct Paper - Choice 1000ct	824.90 840.90	\$0.02 \$0.04	\$0.00 \$0.02
16 oz Cold Cup 16 oz Hot Cup	Foam - Dart Container 1990 et Foam - Dart Container 1990 et		\$0.03 \$0.03	Plastic - Dari Container, 1000 et Paper - Choice 1000 et	\$15,17 \$41,03	SU.0.3 SU.0.1	\$0.00 \$0.01
12 oz Bowl	Foam - Dart Container 500 cs	81 " 63	50.03	Plastic - Genpak 1000ct	\$48.00	80.05	\$0.02
16 oz Bowl	Foati - Dart Container 500 et	\$19.65	S0.04	Plastic - Genpak 1000ct	\$63 40	\$0,06	\$0.02
6" Plate	Foan - Dari Comainer 1000 et	813,68	\$0.01	Paper - AIM Packaging 1000 cr	\$~ <;	S0.007	\$0.00
9" Plate	Foam - Dart Container 500 ct	819-37	\$0.04	Paper - AIM Packaging 1000 et	\$11.49	Su.o1	(\$0.03)
6" Hinge Container	Foam - Dart Container 500 et	81".13	50.03	Plastic - Dary Song	828 18	\$0.06	\$0.03
9" Hinge Container	Toam - Dart Contamer 200 ct	\$12.64	80,06	Plastic Duralock 250ct	\$257/4	\$0,10	\$0.04
			•	Avera	ge Cost	Difference	\$0:01

All prices from The WEBstaurant Store, July 2012.

Lower prices (up to 25% less) may be obtainable through cooperative purchasing.

CLEAN WATER ACTION

#### Flores, Valerie

Subject:

FW: MSC 4/26 Meeting - Polystyrene Ban

From: paula kelly [mailto:pk.kelly@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 3:48 PM
To: Tornek, Terry; Morales, Margo; Thyret, Pam; Bell, Cushon; Chong, Cheynne
Subject: MSC 4/26 Meeting - Polystyrene Ban

Dear Mayor Tornek, Councilwoman McAustin and Councilman Wilson (also copied to Councilmember Hampton):

I am writing as a resident of Pasadena (and I votel) to ask you to please seriously consider the proposed polystyrene ban at your public hearing next week. It is part of the adopted Zero Waste Plan and should be forwarded to the Council at large. I am not going to go into the many good reasons why such a ban should be adopted, because I am sure you have already heard a lot and will hear much more next Tuesday.

However, I would ask that you closely examine the disinformation campaign being undertaken in Pasadena by the companies that manufacture polystyrene containers. Polystyrene food and drink containers are NOT recycled. It is economically infeasible to do so. The only polystyrene that is recycled are large blocks that are used for packing items for shipping. So, the "rinse and recycle" posters you see in some of the restaurants are simply false statements.

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Thank You,

Paula Kelly 1825 Walworth Avenue Pasadena, CA 91104 District 1

#### Martinez, Ruben

From:

Morales, Margo

Sent:

Thursday, April 21, 2016 10:34 AM

To:

'Joan Depew'

Cc:

McAustin, Margaret; cityclerk

Subject:

RE: polystyrene containers

Hello and Thank you for your email. I will make sure Margaret receives it and that it is made part of the public record.



Margo L. Morales
District Representative to Councilmember McAustin
(626) 744-4742
(626) 744-3814 fax
To Join Our Mailing list go to www.cityofpasadena.net/district2

From: Joan Depew [mailto:jedepew@earthlink.net]

Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 5:52 PM

To: Morales, Margo

**Subject:** polystyrene containers

#### Hi Margaret!

Please vote to ban the use of Styrofoam containers in Pasadena! They are the main contributor to marine pollution. As in all things good for this planet, Pasadena should be leading the way. Sincerely,

Joan Depew

2142 E Crary St

Pasadena 91104

#### Jomsky, Mark

From:

Morey Wolfson <moreywolfson@aol.com>

Sent: To:

Monday, April 25, 2016 12:25 AM Go, Michael; Jomsky, Mark

Subject:

Letter in support of MSC moving the polystyrene ordinance to the Council

April 25, 2016

To:

Municipal Services Committee Chairwoman Councilmember Margaret McAustin

Honorable Mayor Terry Tornek Councilmember Andy Wilson

From: Morey Wolfson

It is my pleasure to send you this message in support of the proposed ordinance on polystyrene foam food and beverage containers.

Passage of the ordinance will be a strategic advantage to Pasadena. It will be a strong addition to your list of elements that tout the City' environmental brand. Passage of the ordinance will create the opportunity to distinguish Pasadena as a zero waste pathfinder in the San Gabriel Valley, which could potentially lead Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles to do much the same.

With our new highly qualified Public Works Director, the Council's policy frameworks can create the dynamic for Mr. Maloyan and his staff to serve as role models in support of regional zero waste initiatives.

Following passage of the ordinance, your leadership will send a clear message that we need a stronger regional discussion on how well-crafted ordinances can make a significant dent in controlling the very real public and environmental costs of polystyrene. With passage, I envision that Pasadena will have an authentic place from which to speak on the subject when it appears on the agenda of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments. After implementation, Council Members, the City Manager's office, and Mr. Maloyan will have a tangible story to tell when collaborating and coordinating with governments in the region.

The other benefit of passage is that it would provide Pasadena leaders with the credibility to champion the zero waste topics in front of what will be a newly-constituted **Board of Supervisors**. As you may know, in 2011 the Supervisors declined to extend the boundaries of a polystyrene ban beyond county facilities <u>because they wanted the cover of a statewide ban to be enacted</u>. Thanks to an infusion of a lot of DART money in Sacramento, that did not happen.

#### About DART's money:

As you may know, DART is a heavy-hitter when it comes to campaign contributions. With Ken Dart's worth estimated at \$6.6 billion, and with Dart owning 25% of the property on the Cayman Islands, it is a trifling expense item for DART to give approximately \$500,000 per year in aggregate to California office holders. The contributions help keep policy-makers at bay and "really confused about the recyclability question." With environmentally sensitive bellwether State of California kept perpetually at bay when it comes to polystyrene, DART's \$500,000 California political pay-off undoubtedly yields the company's highest internal ROI.

Since DART's legislative victory in 2011, the polystyrene topic has remained somewhat dormant at the **Board** of Supervisors. There is hope that zero waste champions will emerge on what will be a newly-constituted

Board. Potential champions would be substantially strengthened to move the Board forward when they can point to a model like Pasadena that exercised the political will to directly address the issue.

Thank you for considering these opinions.

With deep appreciation for what I know you do each and every day for this city that you love!

#### Flores, Valerie

To:

Teresa Mei Chuc

Subject:

RE: Support a Healthier, More Sustainable Pasadena

From: Teresa Mei Chuc [mailto:teresa.meichuc@goddard.edu]

Sent: Monday, April 25, 2016 5:58 PM

To: McAustin, Margaret; Tornek, Terry; Wilson, Andy; Go, Michael; Jomsky, Mark; Flores, Valerie; Silva, Gabriel; Madison,

Steve; Hampton, Tyron; Masuda, Gene; Gordo, Victor; Kennedy, John

Subject: Support a Healthier, More Sustainable Pasadena

Dear Pasadena Council Members,

Pasadena is my home. From the age of two and a half, I grew up in Pasadena, I was raised by Pasadena. I attended Hamilton Elementary School and then Marshall Fundamental Junior/Senior High School where I graduated. I think the city of Pasadena played a major role in shaping me as a person, as a human being aware/conscious of her community, the earth and our place in it.

Naturally, I believe that Pasadena should be a styrofoam free city. In doing so, it will send a message to future generations, to our children, that we care about them, that we are indeed stewards of the earth and will lead the way in making this planet a cleaner, safer, healthier place for its plants and creatures.

I imagine the children of Pasadena, the age I was decades ago, growing, absorbing, learning. Passing a bill that can ensure that Pasadena be styrofoam free will send a strong message to our youth and to each person, creature, river, ocean that they are important and worth protecting.

We can pay the small price for more sustainable options other than styrofoam now so that our children, their children, the earth and its creatures will not have to pay a more costly price. What we do in our powers as adults, we communicate our children what they mean to us and what kind of earth we want to leave for them. A clean and thriving earth, healthy creatures unharmed by pollutants such as plastics and styrofoam, a healthy ecosystem is the greatest inheritance we can leave for our children and future generations.

Thank you for listening.

Best regards,

Teresa Mei Chuc, English teacher John F. Kennedy High School Architecture, Digital Design, Filmmaking Magnet 11254 Gothic Avenue Granada Hills, CA 91344

Home:

3343 East Del Mar Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91107

Email: teresameichuc@gmail.com



April 25, 2016

Margaret McAustin, Chair and Municipal Services Committee City of Pasadena 100 North Garfield Avenue Pasadena, CA 91109

Dear Ms. McAustin and Committee Members,

The Pasadena Chamber of Commerce is deeply concerned with the financial impacts the proposed Polystyrene Ban would have on our small and independent food service businesses. I also served on the working group/committee that pushed through the decision that is in front of you now.

I appreciate the City of Pasadena wanting to be a good steward of the environment, and the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce agrees we need to divert more from our waste streams and remove as much polluting materials as we can from our local streams, mountains, wilderness and urban areas. I am not at all convinced this ban will have any impact in furthering that goal. I expect we are merely substituting more costly polluting materials for polystyrene.

I think almost everyone would be supportive of the measure if it would actually have a positive impact on the environment in Pasadena. Unfortunately, any gains made by outlawing polystyrene use by restaurants will be offset by increases in pollution from other materials. As evidenced in San Francisco following their polystyrene ban, litter made up of paper based food packaging, especially cups, increased.

During a small-business roundtable the Chamber hosted last week, Mayor Terry Tornek and Council Member Andy Wilson heard directly from local restaurateurs who said that increasing costs pose a huge threat to their livelihoods. Whether it's the higher costs of providing health care for employees, upcoming increases in the minimum wage or price hikes for food, water and electricity, they're increasingly feeling pressure.

That's part of the reason why they continue to use foam foodservice items — they're effective and affordable. Customers won't burn their hands when they grab a morning coffee; their to-go lunches are still hot when they get back to the office; sauces, soups and other liquids don't soak through the container.

Alternative products, on the other hand, are less effective than foam, yet they cost up to three times more. Anytime anyone is buying in buying in bulk – whether it's a homeless shelter, hospital, restaurant or convenience store – even small increases in costs can really harm a bottom line. In fact, the Pasadena Unified School District said its costs increased by \$100,000 after switching from foam. These increases can have ripple effects, too: When costs go up for business owners, prices may go up for customers and hours may go down for employees.

Worse still, foam alternatives cause even more waste when you consider the java jackets and extra cups needed to protect customers' hands from hot drinks or the extra heavy duty to-go containers required to prevent food from leaking. That's likely why San Francisco saw an increase in paper cup litter after it banned foam.

We all want to keep Pasadena clean and beautiful. But this proposal won't achieve that goal because it simply causes one single-use product to be replaced by another single-use product, and it will harm our city's economic engines: small, locally owned businesses.

While your staff and recycling contractor bemoan the inefficiency and cost of recycling polystyrene, I believe the contract requires the recycling of polystyrene. Whether it is cost-effective or not for the contractor: if the City of Pasadena is paying for a service, that service should be provided. Rather than amend the contract, I think we would all prefer to see all its provisions enforced.

There is so much more the City of Pasadena could be devoting staff time and money to that could have a positive impact on our environment. The Pasadena Chamber of Commerce could be very supportive of measures to prevent all types of litter from entering our storm drains. We would happily support incentives to reduce water use among our small businesses through conservation and installation of fixtures that use less water. We would strongly support initiatives to incentivize installation of solar power panels on flat-topped commercial buildings and parking lots to reduce dependence on fossil fuel-generated power. We support encouraging recycling of plastic water bottles, the single most littered item (after cigarette butts). Providing locking recycling cans for every household to reduce theft of recyclables would also ensure more potentially recyclable material does not reach the landfill. (Often, the pilferers drop unwanted material in the street or place it in the regular trash can where it ends up in the landfill.) All of these could be more effective at enhancing our environment than a polystyrene ban, and none would impose an unfair financial burden on your local small businesses.

The Pasadena Chamber was invited to participate in the polystyrene working group. Unfortunately, from the outset, it was clear the staff-chosen chair of the committee and the support personnel had a foregone conclusion they were seeking. That being said, our concerns are based on the added financial burden this ordinance would place on our small, locally-owned restaurants who are faced with another added cost to do business in Pasadena (along with the negligible impact banning polystyrene would have on our environment).

Thank you for your service to Pasadena.

Paul Little

**President and Chief Executive Officer** 

Cc: S. Mermell, M. Go, V. Flores

#### Flores, Valerie

Subject:

FW: Letter in support of MSC moving the polystyrene ordinance to the Council

From: Morey Wolfson [mailto:moreywolfson@aol.com]

Sent: Monday, April 25, 2016 12:25 AM

To: Go, Michael; Jomsky, Mark

Subject: Letter in support of MSC moving the polystyrene ordinance to the Council

April 25, 2016

To: Municipal Services Committee Chairwoman Councilmember Margaret McAustin

Honorable Mayor Terry Tornek Councilmember Andy Wilson

From: Morey Wolfson

It is my pleasure to send you this message in support of the proposed ordinance on polystyrene foam food and beverage containers.

Passage of the ordinance will be a strategic advantage to Pasadena. It will be a strong addition to your list of elements that tout the City' environmental brand. Passage of the ordinance will create the opportunity to distinguish Pasadena as a zero waste pathfinder in the San Gabriel Valley, which could potentially lead Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles to do much the same.

With our new highly qualified Public Works Director, the Council's policy frameworks can create the dynamic for Mr. Maloyan and his staff to serve as role models in support of regional zero waste initiatives.

Following passage of the ordinance, your leadership will send a clear message that we need a stronger regional discussion on how well-crafted ordinances can make a significant dent in controlling the very real public and environmental costs of polystyrene. With passage, I envision that Pasadena will have an authentic place from which to speak on the subject when it appears on the agenda of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments. After implementation, Council Members, the City Manager's office, and Mr. Maloyan will have a tangible story to tell when collaborating and coordinating with governments in the region.

The other benefit of passage is that it would provide Pasadena leaders with the credibility to champion the zero waste topics in front of what will be a newly-constituted **Board of Supervisors**. As you may know, in 2011 the Supervisors declined to extend the boundaries of a polystyrene ban beyond county facilities because they wanted the cover of a statewide ban to be enacted. Thanks to an infusion of a lot of DART money in Sacramento, that did not happen.

#### About DART's money:

As you may know, DART is a heavy-hitter when it comes to campaign contributions. With Ken Dart's worth estimated at \$6.6 billion, and with Dart owning 25% of the property on the Cayman Islands, it is a trifling expense item for DART to give approximately \$500,000 per year in aggregate to California office holders. The contributions help keep policy-makers at bay and "really confused about the recyclability question." With environmentally sensitive bellwether State of California kept perpetually at bay when it comes to polystyrene, DART's \$500,000 California political pay-off undoubtedly yields the company's highest internal ROI.

Since DART's legislative victory in 2011, the polystyrene topic has remained somewhat dormant at the **Board of Supervisors**. There is hope that zero waste champions will emerge on what will be a newly-constituted Board. Potential champions would be substantially strengthened to move the Board forward when they can point to a model like Pasadena that exercised the political will to directly address the issue.

Thank you for considering these opinions.

With deep appreciation for what I know you do each and every day for this city that you love!

April 24, 2016

The Honorable Margaret McAustin Chair, Municipal Services Committee Pasadena City Council 100 North Garfield Avenue Pasadena, CA 91101



RE: Polystyrene Food Packaging

Dear Councilmember McAustin,

On behalf of the California Grocers Association, I write to share a concern with the draft food packaging ordinance. As an industry we have worked with nearly 100 jurisdictions seeking to control polystyrene foam products. Based on our experience we feel that the scope of the draft ordinance may be well intentioned but would overregulate polystyrene products.

The California Grocers Association is a non-profit, statewide trade association representing the food industry since 1898. CGA represents approximately 500 retail member companies operating over 6,000 food stores in California with 80% of companies being independent grocers. CGA represents numerous grocers operating in Pasadena.

Our concern with the draft ordinance is the definition of "Polystyrene" which includes clear or solid polystyrene, also know as oriented polystyrene. We are aware that many local governments in California have sought to control expanded polystyrene, commonly referred to as foam, due to issues if it breaks apart. However, oriented polystyrene is a dramatically different product without similar breakage issues as expanded polystyrene. We respectfully request the removal of oriented polystyrene from the definition.

Our request to continue to allow oriented polystyrene becomes even more relevant when you consider other control measures in the ordinance. We have seen other California jurisdictions ban the retail sale of expanded foam products. However, a ban on oriented polystyrene products unnecessarily reduces a significant amount of product options for consumers. Inclusion of oriented polystyrene is also likely to push consumers towards products for which there are no appropriates outlets such as compostable products. The same mandate would then require a durable oriented polystyrene product to only be available for sale after further encapsulating in an additional durable material.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to remove oriented polystyrene from the ordinance mandates. Please consider CGA a partner as you continue Pasadena's waste reduction efforts.

Sincerely,

TIMOTHY M. JAMES

Sr. Manager, Local Government Relations

cc: Members, Pasadena City Council

Mr. Michael Go, Staff Representative, City of Pasadena Ms. Valerie Flores, Recording Secretary, City of Pasadena Dear members of the City Council.

I own a small business in the city of Pasadena and contribute much into the Pasadena economy. I am extremely concerned you would consider putting a ban on foam service containers. I believe this type of band will cause major problems for businesses and owners like me and our customers in Pasadena.

I will be forced to increase the prices and the customers are going to be the one's affected by your decision, which will impacted my business if customers decide to go elsewhere with cheaper prices. With increases to minimum wage and California sales tax I'm facing a lot of new costs that are challenging especially for small business.

Foam takeout containers are the most affordable and effective option for my small business. We also ask that you focus on improving our recycling program instead of banning and punishing small businesses in Pasadena.

Sincerely.

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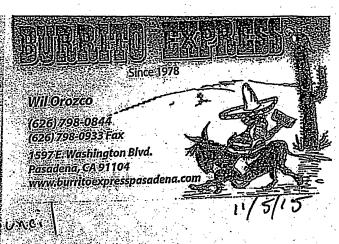
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Pasadena's small business & familes are counting on you to do right thing.	ng
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The fayn coffee shop con 635 N. lake AVE Pasadena Can

(626) 304-053 Dear Members of the city You will be voting on a container ban . (I believe this type of Will cause major problems for bushersowner like the tour cuitomers in Pasaclena. As an Independent small restaurant owner, I know that keeping my price law is somethe My customers appreciate to have kept me. in business for the last We Use foam container for alloxour out and contoners use it /Ash for t when the don't Finish their Food. cheaper than 4 times hil yer that what focus on in on to hel As an Solocational We are still Here small businesses and familes to do the right thing Please Don't Forget ezy fuodo Jose do Jesus Hernaudez

## Dear Pusaderra City Council,

Considering a bon on foam food containers. We rely on these products because they are the best at keeping food hot and drinks cold. They are also the most affordable and that is very important since the restourant business has small protists. Hy business would be affected greatly it you were to ban these products. I ask that you please vote NO on a ban of foam food containers.

Sincerely,

Dena's Burgers

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Luis F. Heredia.

Chapala Bakery. #2. 265 East Crange Grove. Blv. Phsadena. C.A. G1104.

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The ban on foam food togo containers As a

Small business owner, this ban will cause Severe

Problems for Small businesses. Keeping expenses cost

low is very important to businesses especially

family run Small businesses and this kind of ban

would cause Small businesses to close eventually

please consider one more time and prevent

this ban to be approved.

please vote NO on a foam food container ban.
Thank you.

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Sincerely.

Soojin kim M20 N Lake ave #8 Pasadena CA 91104.

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#### PASADENA CITY COUNCIL:

Our restaurant EL POLLO UNICO located at 731 N. Lake Ave Pasadena, CA 91104, has been in business for 30 years, We serve working class families and lower income clientele, the Styrofoam ban that you are proposing will hurt our business, because it is the best and only way to package and keep our CHICKEN hot far hours, since Styrofoam containers are good insulators and cost effective, if we switch to aluminum containers, or other materials, we would have to raise our prices which will affect the low income families,

We the owners of restaurants in PASADENA, strongly urge the City to abandon or cancel the ban on Styrofoam containers. We need it to survive, RESTAURANTS are extremely regulated, Please do not add one more regulation to an industry that generates revenue for the city.

YOURS TRULY

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## Dear Pasadena City Concil

I have become aware that you are considering a ban on foam food containers. We at Big Maura's Rib shock depend on foam food containers because they are the most dependable and affordable product for us. We participate in a program. That educates our customers on how to recycle their containers when they are finished with them. Small businesses and restainents have very low profit margins and we feel that a ban would have a devastating impact on our business. If raise my prices my customers may be forced to go else where.

Please vote No on any foam food container ban. We are counting on you to do the right thing and support our businesses.

### Estimados Consejales de Paradena,

Endentemente Ostedes estan considerando una ley que Prohibe el uso de embases de poliesterino. Esta ley afectaria a mi negocio demaciade. Mi negocio depende en estos productos porque son lo mejor. Mantiene la comida caliente y ne escurre. Tambien son asequibles y permiten que yo mantenga mis precios bajos. Yo participo en un programa para educar a mis clientes que debenam reciclar los embases despues de usarlos. Por faver voten NO en esta ley.

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Gracias

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<u>Gran</u>dview Palace CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mandarin & Szechuan Cuisine

Free Delivery (Within 4 Miles Radius, \$15 Min.)

OPEN 6 DAYS (Closed on Tuesday) Sun-Thur. 11:00 am -9:30 pm Fri.-Sat. 11:00 am - 10:00 pm

Dear City Hall As a Busness owner or Sterra Donnes located in Pagadenu for almost DA years we Just found out about the recommended religioushment OF For cup products. We would like for you to reconsider to is preposition because this would Linder Dur economic Status during these total times. As a small bushess owner and white This bon would hurt is us a buspect of this proposal. As one of ane america SMAIL BUYDATES NO MIC Orga I would have to OF WASTERDMING CODE DEEDESC WALL A MENALIFE pa puct ba but ability to 10 Voibarsi

## Dean Panadena City Council,

Please vote no on a foam food confainer ban.

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