

**Iraheta, Alba**

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**From:** Gloria Newton  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 31, 2021 1:17 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Agenda item 12: Please adopt Disposable Accessory Foodware Ordinance

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Dear Mayor Gordo and Honorable Council Members,

I am writing to urge you to adopt a Disposable Accessory Foodware Ordinance that requires customers to "opt in" rather than "opt out."

Even before the pandemic, I was in the practice of asking restaurants not to give me plasticware, especially for items I was just taking home or that do not really need utensils. But sometimes I would forget, or they would give them to me automatically, and once they were across the counter, I couldn't give them back. This has been especially problematic during the pandemic, when the bulk of my restaurant food has been consumed at home anyway, and even if I requested no utensils, sometimes they would come anyway. At my house, I have a drawer piling up with pre-packaged plasticware sets that I will never use but don't want to simply throw away. I'm pretty sure you can relate.

Therefore, please adopt this ordinance that will be one step toward reducing the harmful environmental, health, and economic impacts of single-use plastics. Especially important will be to remove language that maintains an opt-out model, as this would be much less effective in reducing the use of such items. Please make sure the wording is clear that customers must opt-in by asking for items, not opting out by refusing them.

I will be so happy not to look into my bag with dismay and find yet another unneeded, plastic-wrapped set of cutlery and paper napkin. There's so much more to be done, but this is one easy move in the right direction.

Thank you for your time and your service.

Sincerely,  
Gloria Newton  
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Pasadena, CA 91101

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"Each time a person reaches across caste and makes a connection, it helps to break the back of caste. Multiplied by millions in a given day, it becomes the flap of a butterfly

wing that shifts the air and builds to a hurricane across an ocean."--Isabel Wilkerson,  
*Caste*