

**RESOLUTION TO DECLARE THAT THE CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE
IS WORKING TO BE PLASTIC FREE
AND TO ESTABLISH A VOLUNTARY PLASTIC REDUCTION PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the City of Hendersonville is diligent in its efforts to preserve the beautiful environment that enhances our residents' quality of life and supports the tourism industry which is so vital to our local economy; and

WHEREAS, single use plastic items are detrimental because they do not fully degrade in our waterways or on land, they introduce unsafe chemicals into our environment, and the expansive usage of single use plastic items and their disposal challenges create unsightly litter; and

WHEREAS, single use plastic items are difficult to recycle, frequently contaminate material that is processed through municipal recycling and composting programs, and cause operational problems at recycling processing facilities, landfills, and transfer stations; and

WHEREAS, reusable and compostable items 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 reduce the use of single use plastic items and recognizes their proactive efforts; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have shown the negative environmental and health effects of plastics and the chemicals used to produce them; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have documented the prevalence of single use plastic items littering the environment, blocking storm drains, becoming entangled in treetops, and fouling waterways; and

WHEREAS, plastic bags and other plastic products are a substantial source of aquatic debris, responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of aquatic animals each year; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown the presence of micro plastics in terrestrial and aquatic life systems throughout the entire planet, resulting in a wholesale contamination of the food supply due to the proliferation of plastic litter and plastic breakdown products; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hendersonville and nonprofit partners installed a “Trash Trout” litter collection device in Mud Creek in 2017, and to date has been able to remove 6,500 pounds of litter, approximately 80% of which is comprised of single use plastic items; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hendersonville Environmental Sustainability Board has identified single use plastic litter as a priority and is working in partnership with the nonprofit organization MountainTrue to develop and implement a voluntary plastic reduction program for local businesses and organizations; and

WHEREAS, numerous states and cities throughout the United States have enacted voluntary and mandatory restrictions on single-use plastic items, resulting in dramatic decreases in plastic waste; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hendersonville, NC strives to protect the natural environment, the economy and the health of its residents and visitors of the city and believes environmental sustainability is critical to preserving the community for future generations as stated in the City’s new Core Values and Beliefs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hendersonville that:

1. The City of Hendersonville is working to be plastic free; and
2. The City Council directs the Environmental Sustainability Board with the support of City staff and in partnership with MountainTrue to develop and implement the voluntary plastic reduction program as presented at this July 1, 2021, City Council meeting to encourage local businesses and organizations to reduce and eliminate single use plastic items from their operations.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Hendersonville, North Carolina on this 1st day of July 2021.

Attest:

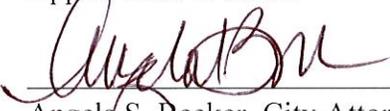


Angela L. Reece, City Clerk



Barbara G. Volk, Mayor, City of Hendersonville

Approved as to form:



Angela S. Beecker, City Attorney