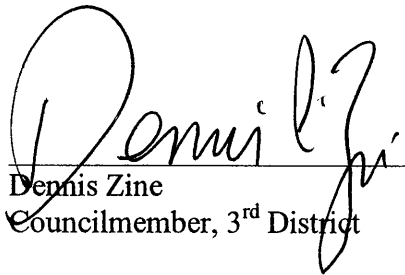


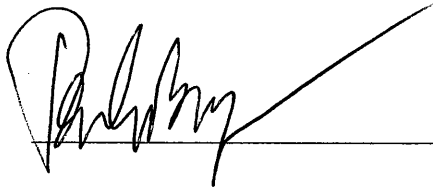
Expanded polystyrene (polystyrene) food containers, commonly known as Styrofoam, contribute to the volume of waste disposed at landfills because it is difficult to recycle and non-biodegradable. They are also some of the most commonly littered items due to their lightweight properties, and they are easily blown out of overflowing trash receptacles. Since litter ends up in our storm drain system and eventually on our beaches, studies have shown that over half of all floating marine debris collected at our local beaches is polystyrene food containers.


Upon entering the marine environment, polystyrene food containers break down into smaller pieces which negatively impact water quality and harm marine wildlife, which often mistakes polystyrene pieces for food. The cumulative negative impact of polystyrene food containers on our environment poses serious health and safety concerns, results in significant costs to residents, and negatively impacts the City's recreational and tourism economy.

Despite its ill effects, Styrofoam used to serve drinks and food is still often used by City departments. Though the City does maintain some recycling programs for Styrofoam, Styrofoam products that are used to serve food and drinks are considered dirty and cannot be recycled. The City should not be in the practice of using Styrofoam and polystyrene products that cannot be recycled when other alternatives are available.

I THEREFORE MOVE, that the Bureau of Sanitation, with the assistance of the Environmental Affairs Department, Chief Legislative Analyst, City Administrative Officer, and other relevant departments as required, be instructed to report on the feasibility of establishing a Citywide policy that would ban the use of Styrofoam in all City departments, venues, and events, and to prepare recommendations to accomplish that end.

PRESENTED BY: 
Dennis Zine
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY: 

OCT 02 2007


07-3155