

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

RESOLUTION NO. 20-M

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT RESTAURANTS AND COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS
IN THE CITY OF NEWARK DISTRIBUTE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS BY REQUEST ONLY TO CUSTOMERS**

WHEREAS, it is estimated that tens of thousands of plastic straws are used daily in the City of Newark; and

WHEREAS, plastic straws are not recyclable, can never completely degrade and can enter the human food chain as micro-plastics; and

WHEREAS, municipalities across the United States and other countries are banning single use plastics, including straws and bags; and

WHEREAS, there are at least 16 restaurants in Newark that have already adopted a “straws upon request” policy which has been met with appreciation by customers and saved money for participating restaurants; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Advisory Commission has recommended that Council consider taking policy action to decrease single-use plastic straw usage; and

WHEREAS, City Council at its June 10, 2019 meeting requested that a resolution be brought back to Council for consideration on this topic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Newark, Delaware takes the following actions to encourage the reduction of single-use plastic straws:

1. Request that all restaurants and commercial establishments in the City adopt a “straws upon request” policy and consider offering paper straws instead of single-use plastic straws; and
2. Direct the City Manager to have the Communications Division work with the Conservation Advisory Commission to create educational materials around the benefits of the “straws upon request” policy and the use of paper straws as an alternative; and
3. Direct the Conservation Advisory Commission to distribute said educational materials electronically or physically to restaurants and commercial establishments in the City; and
4. Encourage the City Manager to have staff work with the Conservation Advisory Commission to see if there are opportunities for staff to assist with the distribution of said educational materials as part of processes for existing contacts with restaurants and commercial businesses; and
5. Direct the Conservation Advisory Commission to collect data regarding adoption rate of the “straws upon request” policy by Newark restaurants and commercial establishments and the effectiveness of this resolution over a period of one year and report said data back to City Council as part of its 2021 Annual Report.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the implementation of a “straws by request” policy in no way requires that establishments reject the request of differently abled individuals for plastic straws as a reasonable accommodation for a medical or physical condition.

RESOLVED at a Regular Meeting of Council on November 10, 2020.

VOTE: 7 to 0.

Attest:

City Secretary

Mayor