



MEMORANDUM

Date: April 4, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

From: Ron Ramsingh
City Attorney

Subject: Proposed Ordinance Amendment Sec 26-312 Marine Biodegradable straws

Sponsor: Commissioner Jimmy Weekley

Introduction

Commissioner Weekley arranged for a presentation before the Commission about marine biodegradable straws at the April 18 meeting, and is bringing forward this related ordinance amendment, which would allow the use of marine biodegradable straws in the City of Key West.

Background

Section 26-312 of the code of ordinances was created in 2019 and currently prohibits the sale or distribution of single use plastic straws and stirrers, with a definition of such. This amendment to the ordinance would include marine biodegradable straws as permissible, which decompose into elements found in the marine environment within one year, to be sold or distributed in the City of Key West. A number of consumers and business owners find that paper, wood and metal straws are unsatisfactory, expensive or inefficient. A marine biodegradable straw could provide a satisfactory alternative, with little or no negative impact the local marine environment.

Procurement

This ordinance would have no financial impact on the local government.

Recommendation

Commissioner Weekley recommends approval of the ordinance, which would allow residents, visitors and businesses to purchase, distribute and use an eco-friendly alternative to paper straws and stirrers.