

1 **WHEREAS**, in 2014 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued *Municipal Solid Waste*
2 *Landfills: Economic Impact Analysis for the Proposed New Subpart of the New Source Performance*
3 *Standards* which determined that in the United States 17.3% of all solid waste taken to municipal landfills
4 is plastic; and,

5 **WHEREAS**, it can take up to 1,000 years for plastic products to decompose in a landfill if not otherwise
6 addressed; and,

7 **WHEREAS**, China, which until recently imported 45% of plastic wastes from various countries, and
8 in 2016 banned the import of certain plastic waste which, according to one research article, means that by
9 2030 the Chinese policy, if not addressed by other local actions, will displace an estimated 111 million tons
10 of plastic waste throughout the world; and,

11 **WHEREAS**, cities such as Seattle, Washington, have enacted ordinances that would mandate a ban on
12 the use of such items, but there are numerous ways that a local community can address the issue and
13 structure a program that meets its specific needs as well as assists vendors with the implementation of such
14 a program that can be painless and profitable as noted by the United States findings; and,

15 **WHEREAS**, single-use merchandise bags have caused significant litter and trash problems for Little
16 Rock, its citizens, taxpayers and the environment; and,

17 **WHEREAS**, the widespread use of difficult to recycle or compost single-use plates, bowls, cups and
18 utensils has caused substantial litter and trash problem costly to our citizens, our tax payers, our City and
19 our environment; and,

20 **WHEREAS**, the City Board must consider the extent and potential impacts, including financial costs,
21 resulting from the disposal of plastics.

22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY**
23 **OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:**

24 **Section 1.** The Board of Directors of the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, expresses its intention to
25 consider approaches, including possible regulation, of several kinds of merchandise bags, sacks, and other
26 difficult to recycle or compost single-use plastic items.

27 **Section 2.** The Board of Directors of the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, requests that a Task Force be
28 established to research the various issues about the impact of single-use plastics on the City sanitary landfill,
29 including the prominence of such items in City litter, and to identify potential cost effective and
30 environmentally sensitive alternatives to the continued use of such items, to be composed of three (3)
31 representatives from and chosen by the Little Rock Sustainability Commission, three (3) members of the
32 business community, including vendors and users of such products, appointed by the Mayor, the City
33 Recycling and Sustainability Program Educator, and to be chaired by the City Sustainability Officer;
34 further, that a report with recommendations will be presented to the Mayor and Board of Directors by
35 December 31, 2019.

1 **Section 3.** This Task Force should also review ordinances and regulatory programs throughout the
2 United States to help outline a structure that is most appropriate for the City, and for Central Arkansas as
3 well.

4 **Section 4. Severability.** In the event any title, section, paragraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase, or
5 word of this resolution is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or
6 adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of the resolution which shall remain in full force and
7 effect as if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional were not originally a part of the
8 resolution.

9 **Section 5. Repealer.** All laws, ordinances, resolutions, or parts of the same, that are inconsistent with
10 the provisions of this resolution, are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

11 **ADOPTED: August 6, 2019**

12 **ATTEST:**

APPROVED:

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15 **Susan Langley, City Clerk**

_____ **Frank Scott, Jr., Mayor**

16 **APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:**

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19 **Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney**

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