

RESOLUTION 15-05-43

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE INITIATIVES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN FLORIDA TO LESSEN THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS ON OUR ENVIRONMENT; APPEALING FOR SUPPORT FROM THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE STATEWIDE DEREGULATION OR ALLOW LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ADOPT REGULATIONS TO REDUCE THE USE OF PLASTIC BAGS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, Islamorada, Village of Islands (the “Village”) makes significant efforts to preserve the natural resources of the Florida Keys which not only benefits the environment but maintains the tourism industry that is vital to the economy of Monroe County and the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, plastic bags are detrimental to the environment and 12 million barrels of non-renewable crude oil are used every year to produce the 100 billion plastic grocery bags used in the United States annually; and

WHEREAS, it can take up to 1,000 years for plastic bags to break down in a land fill, plastic bags introduce dangerous chemicals into the environment as they break down, plastic bags enter the food chain when ingested by marine and land animals - ultimately causing harm to humans through consumption, and plastic bags that fall to the ocean floor will likely never degrade; and

WHEREAS, plastic bags harm and kill sea turtles when sea turtles mistake plastic bags for jellyfish, one of their favorite food sources, and the World Wide Fund for Nature has estimated that over 100,000 whales, seals and sea turtles die every year as a result of eating or being trapped by plastic bags; and

WHEREAS, in addition to injuries and deaths of whales, seals and sea turtles, other marine and land animals are injured and killed through entanglement and ingestion of plastic bags; and

WHEREAS, in recent years many municipalities and counties throughout the United States have adopted regulations to reduce plastic bag use including Seattle, WA, Portland, OR and all four counties of Hawaii, and the State of California enacted the first statewide ban in 2014; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, as Florida municipalities began to consider regulations on plastic bags, the Florida Legislature enacted FS 403.7033 to prohibit any bag regulations from being passed in the State of Florida until such time as the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) submitted a report to the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, on February 1, 2010, the FDEP submitted the *Retail Bags Report to the Legislature* explaining the harm to the environment caused by plastic bags and recommending the Legislature take action to discourage the use of plastic bags and encourage the use of reusable retail bags; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 *Retail Bags Report to the Legislature* concludes that plastic bag bans result in reduction in use of plastic bags in the shortest amount of time and that imposing fees or taxes for plastic bag use follows closely behind in effectiveness to reduce plastic bag use; and

WHEREAS, during the past three legislative session, bills were introduced that would allow local governments to enact regulations to reduce the use of plastic bags and thereby protect and preserve the environment; and

WHEREAS, on each occasion, the Florida Legislature allowed the bills to die in session; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2015, the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners passed and adopted Resolution No. 102a-2015 to support bills to allow local governments to regulate the use of plastic bags; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council of Islamorada, Village of Islands, joins with Monroe County to implore the Florida Legislature to provide statewide deregulation or pass legislation to allow local governments to adopt regulations to reduce the use of plastic bags.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. Supporting Local Regulations. The Village Council of Islamorada, Village of Islands is committed to preserving natural resources and supports the initiatives of

local governments in Florida to lessen the negative impact of single-use plastic bags on our environment.

Section 3. Appealing for Support from the Florida Legislature. The Village Council appeals to the Florida Legislature to allow local governments to regulate plastic bags.

Section 4. Effective Date. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Motion to adopt by Councilman Chris Sante, seconded by Vice Mayor Deb Gillis.

FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION

VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS

Mayor Mike Forster	YES
Vice Mayor Deb Gillis	YES
Councilman Jim Mooney	YES
Councilman Chris Sante	YES
Councilman Dennis Ward	YES

PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THIS 28TH DAY OF MAY, 2015:



MIKE FORSTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:



KELLY TOTH, VILLAGE CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF ISLAMORADA,
VILLAGE OF ISLANDS ONLY



ROGET V. BRYAN, VILLAGE ATTORNEY