

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The world is currently enduring a climate crisis with extraordinary implications for people—particularly those from historically marginalized communities—wildlife, and ecosystems across the globe; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council passed a resolution in February 2020 declaring a state of climate emergency that threatens the health and well-being of Chicago's residents and environment; and

WHEREAS, The extraction of fossil fuels and the attendant production, use, and disposal of plastics contribute significantly to the growing climate crisis and present environmental justice challenges; and

WHEREAS, Single-use plastics are used by numerous Chicago food establishments for both in-house dining and take-out food service, as well as in the excessive packaging of foods at grocery stores; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 5% of post-consumer plastic is currently being recycled in the United States, and plastics that are recycled have limited utility beyond any initial recycling efforts; and

WHEREAS, It frequently takes centuries for plastics to break down into microplastics and nanoplastics, which are found in increasing levels in soil, groundwater, and oceans throughout the world, as well as in animals, birds, plants, and humans; and

WHEREAS, Plastic food products may contain thousands of chemicals whose health risks are untested and that can damage our endocrine, immune, neurological, and reproductive systems after entering the human body; and

WHEREAS, The fossil fuel industry is expected to triple production of plastics by 2050 World Economic Forum, as plastic production is commonly seen as a new source of income with diminishing uses of fuel; and

WHEREAS, The burden of the disposal of single-use plastics is currently borne disproportionately by taxpayers and municipalities that are already overwhelmed with solid waste disposal; and

WHEREAS, The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency recently estimated that the Chicago Metro Area could run out of available landfill space by 2030; and

WHEREAS, Existing corporate, government, and community infrastructure and policies are unable to adequately address the acute and growing challenges that plastics pose; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the members of the City Council for the City of Chicago, do hereby call on the Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy to hold a hearing on the impacts

of single-use plastics on Chicago environment, and on the steps that can be taken to reduce the use of single-use plastics in Chicago public and private sectors.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt J. Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Matthew J. Martin
Alderman, 47th Ward