

TOWN OF ENFIELD

RESOLUTION URGING TOMPKINS COUNTY TO ADOPT A COUNTYWIDE “SKIP THE STUFF” LOCAL LAW

WHEREAS, single-use utensils, beverage straws, beverage stirrers, condiment packets, and other disposable foodware accessories are frequently provided with takeout and delivery orders even when customers do not want or need them; and

WHEREAS, these unnecessary disposable items consume natural resources, create litter and solid waste, and add to the waste-management and disposal costs borne by businesses, residents, and local government; and

WHEREAS, many disposable foodware accessories are not recyclable or compostable through existing local recovery systems, making prevention at the source more effective than attempting to manage these items after they have been distributed; and

WHEREAS, requiring disposable foodware accessories to be provided only upon request would preserve customers' access to these items while preventing unwanted waste and reducing purchasing costs for food service establishments; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Enfield has recognized that reducing material waste decreases greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts associated with the production, transportation, consumption, and disposal of goods; and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Department of Recycling and Materials Management promotes reduction and reuse as essential components of the County's sustainable materials-management strategy; and

WHEREAS, takeout and delivery transactions routinely cross municipal boundaries and are increasingly facilitated through third-party ordering and delivery platforms; and

WHEREAS, separate municipal requirements would create an unnecessary patchwork of rules for food service establishments, residents, third-party platforms, and enforcing agencies; and

WHEREAS, one countywide law would provide consistent requirements throughout Tompkins County, allow electronic ordering platforms to implement a uniform system, and ensure that residents and businesses in every municipality receive the benefits of waste prevention;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Enfield calls upon the Tompkins County Legislature to develop and adopt a countywide “Skip the Stuff” local law establishing a by-request-only policy for disposable foodware accessories provided with takeout and delivery orders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board recommends that the countywide local law provide, at minimum, that:

1. Covered food service establishments shall not provide single-use utensils, including forks, spoons, sporks, knives, and chopsticks; beverage straws; beverage stirrers; or condiment packets with takeout or delivery orders unless the customer specifically requests them;
2. Covered food service establishments shall not provide prepackaged or bundled sets containing multiple disposable foodware accessories. Any disposable foodware accessory requested by a customer shall be provided individually to prevent the distribution of unwanted items and reduce waste;
3. Electronic ordering services and third-party delivery platforms facilitating covered orders shall provide customers with a clear opportunity to request individual disposable foodware accessories and shall accurately transmit those requests to the food service establishment;
4. A food service establishment shall not be held responsible for a third-party ordering or delivery platform’s failure to accurately transmit a customer’s request;
5. Disposable foodware accessories shall remain available upon request, and no customer shall be required to disclose or document a disability or medical condition to receive one;
6. The law shall identify the responsible County enforcement authority and establish a simple complaint and investigation process; and

7. Implementation shall include business and public education, a reasonable phase-in period, and written warnings for initial violations before monetary penalties are imposed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board requests that the appropriate committee of the Tompkins County Legislature, in consultation with the County Attorney and the Department of Recycling and Materials Management, prepare a proposed local law and implementation plan for consideration by the full Legislature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Enfield encourages the City, towns, and villages within Tompkins County to join this request for a consistent countywide policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Chair and members of the Tompkins County Legislature, the Tompkins County Administrator, the Tompkins County Attorney, and the Department of Recycling and Materials Management.

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

VOTE:

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSENT: _____

ADOPTED: _____