



September 20, 2018

Borough of Narberth Council
Public Works Committee

Plastics Ordinance – Authorizing a Fee on Single-Use Plastic Bags and a Ban of Plastic Straws

Dear Narberth Public Works Committee Members:

Clean Air Council fully supports your efforts to implement legislation that would reduce the use of single-use plastic bags and straws in the Borough of Narberth. For too long, municipalities have ignored the menace that is single-use plastic and the growing movement over the past few decades towards becoming a “throw-away” culture. As a society we have become addicted to consumption and the vast majority of the consumed items quickly become trash or litter at great costs to municipalities and the environment.

We do not need to live this way, and municipalities should not continue to subsidize their residents’ apathy to the detriment of a clean environment and costly expenditures to clean up plastic waste and litter. The average American uses approximately 500 single-use bags per year and over 35,000 straws in a lifetime. There is a simple solution: bring your own, or simply do not use. This addiction to plastic comes at a great cost to municipalities and the world’s environment. By placing a fee on plastic bags and banning straws, you are sending the message that Narberth residents care about the environment and want to reduce costs to the municipality.

The Council would encourage the Public Works Committee to also consider including a similar fee on single-use paper bags as it will further encourage shoppers to bring their own bags instead of relying on businesses to provide paper bags, which are bad for the environment in their own ways, and costlier for businesses to purchase.

The Clean Air Council is a member-supported, non-profit environmental organization serving Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic Region. The Council is dedicated to protecting and defending everyone’s right to a healthy environment. The Council works through a broad array of related sustainability and public health initiatives, using public education, community action, government oversight, and enforcement of environmental laws.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Otis Minott".

Joseph Otis Minott, Esq.
Executive Director & Chief Counsel
Clean Air Council