

City of Salem, Massachusetts



**"Know Your Rights Under the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A ss. 18-25 and  
City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 through 2-2033."**

The City Council Committee on Public Health, Safety and Environment co-posted with the  
Committee of the Whole

met remotely on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at  
6:00 P.M.

for the purpose of discussing the matters(s) listed below. Notice of this meeting was posted on  
February 7, 2022 at 8:02  
A.M.

(This meeting is being recorded)

**ATTENDANCE**

**ABSENT WERE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**All committee members present.**

**Present form COW:** Ty Hapworth, Caroline Watson-Felt, Domingo Dominguez, Patricia Morsillo, Robert McCarthy

**SUBJECT(S)**

**#19 – Review and Discuss Ordinance relative to Sustainable Food Ware and Packaging**

**Chair Conrad Prosniewski** - welcomed all and gave a brief synopsis of proposed ordinance introduced by Councillor Andrew Varela.

**Beth Rennard** – Shared her screen and showed suggested changes to the original draft of the ordinance.

**Jeff Cohen** – suggested the ordinance not go into effect until one year after passage to give businesses the chance to deplete their current stocks.

**Alice Merkl** – suggested adding an exemption for all stocked items to be depleted.

**Megan Riccardi** – asked to reach out to food establishments. Questioning the cost of transition. How can city composting be integrated. How does this effect the schools?

**Robert McCarthy** – questioned why the draft was being amended prior to the Committee first viewing it, something he hasn't experienced before. Agreed with Councillor Cohen on the one year delay. Asked why the Salem Chamber of Commerce wasn't notified.

**Andrew Varela** – stated Chamber (Rinus) was notified over a month ago. Also stated the change was doable with a year.

**Jeff Cohen** – attempted to speak but experienced technical difficulties.

**Megan Riccardi** – is looking for more answers on the impact of the ordinance.

**Jeff Cohen** – attempted to speak, again experiencing difficulties.

#### **Opened questions to the public/attendees.**

**Steven Kapantais** – spoke to the council about his background and experience in the plastics business, the supply issues of different container types, the makeup of current and future packaging, and compostable goals.

**David Greenbaum** (BOH Director) – spoke in support of the ordinance.

**Patrick Schultz** (Salem restauranter) attempted to speak (several times) but had technical issues.

**Margaret?** - stating she was from Salem Sound stated fines should be higher than suggested, and other restaurants such as Old Souls are already using compostable take-out containers.

**Irvett Perrin** (Salem schools) stated schools already using many compostable products and questioned the current supply chain issues.

#### **Public comment closed**

**Andrew Varela** – stated Salem would become the 49th Massachusetts municipality to adopt such an ordinance should it pass.

**Megan Riccardi** – moved to keep the matter in Committee.

**Andrew Varela** – second.

On the motion of **Andrew Varela** the meeting adjourned at 6:57 P.M.

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(Chairperson)