

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 April 12, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.

for the purpose of discussing the matters(s) listed below. Notice of this meeting was posted on

April 4, 2022 at 1:16 P.M.

(This meeting is being recorded)

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT WERE: Chair C. Prosniowski, A. Varela, A. Merkl, J. Cohen, M. Riccardi. COW: P. Morsillo, L. McClain.

SUBJECT(S)

#19 Ordinance to establish foodware & packaging, further discussion.

A. Varela, working with B. Rennard and under the suggestion of P. Morsillo, removed the straw exemption, adding straw language to the ordinance. Also removed packing peanuts. New changes include adding institutional food services, food vendors, and food trucks.

M. Riccardi continues to be concerned about the impact on local businesses, especially the small ones. Kate Newhall-Smith's ability to create a co-op, and an avenue to small businesses to discuss impact.

A. Varela has been speaking with K. Newhall-Smith to open dialogue with distributors and look at incentives.

A. Merkl is concerned with challenges for restaurants. Move forward and look to resource assistance options including exemptions for hardships.

A. Varela states there exists a hardship exemption and would like to see this matter go before the next council meeting.

M. Riccardi continues to request a Purpose Statement, better breakdown of definitions ie; 2 forms of plastics, disposable food ware requirements, and line of credit issues for small businesses. Stated she is not comfortable moving it forward as is.

A. Varela answered that not all distributors require a line of credit, and the issue is not that complicated.

L. McClain stated not all on board. He would like to see more representation from the business community and input from institutional vendors due to the complications a co-op may present.

A. Varela stated he has had conversations with city schools, who are on board, and is waiting to hear back from Salem Hospital.

J. Cohen stated the re-use and re-design will be most impactful and we need to get to a better place. There is still more work to do.

M. Riccardi Motion for ordinance to take effect one year after passage. J. Cohen second. Passes 5/0

B. Rennard requesting A. Varela to further define establishments. Packing versus packaging businesses.

M. Riccardi questioning the definition of packaging.

A. Varela suggests changes by omitting 14-511 sec 3.

M. Riccardi questioning #4, definitions of compostable and recycling be further described.

A. Varela stresses the intent of this ordinance is to ban polystyrene.

M. Riccardi would like to see more conversation and wording on purpose.

A. Merkl states this is a workable document, and we should keep working on it.

J. Cohen motions to accept current changes, A. Varela second. Four positive/one negative (Riccardi).

A. Merkle motions to keep matter in committee. M. Riccardi second. Four positive/one negative (A. Varela).

J. Cohen, still under discussion, would like to invite Micaela Guglielmi from recycling to the next meeting.

M. Riccardi would like to have business impact and city staff outreach.

A. Varela states he will contact K. Newhall-Smith from Planning.

P. Morsillo who will educate the businesses? How and when will it be done? And stressed the importance of city staff involvement.

M. Riccardi motion to adjourn. A. Varela second. passes 5/0

On the motion of M. Riccardi

the meeting adjourned at 7:19 P.M.



(Chairperson)