

**RESOLUTION NO. 120919-2**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF  
THE BOROUGH OF GETTYSBURG, ADAMS COUNTY,  
PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING AND ADOPTING OF  
BOROUGH POLICIES FOR THE REDUCTION OF THE  
USE OF DISPOSABLE PLASTIC PRODUCTS.**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council of the Borough of Gettysburg seeks to present a strong message of support and encouragement and to provide information in the hope of engaging and uniting the community in a broad effort to reduce the use of disposable plastic products, to change the ways which we, as members of this community, consume and produce single-use items, to focus community efforts on waste minimalization, and to address pollution in all its forms in our community and across the region; and

**WHEREAS**, one-half of the 300 million tons of plastic produced each year is used only once; and

**WHEREAS**, a study conducted by the University of California Santa Barbara's National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis found that between 4.8 and 12.7 million metric tons of plastic material ultimately pollute our planet's oceans every year and such amounts of waste plastic materials are projected to substantially increase by calendar year 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, more than forty (40%) percent of plastic is used to create packaging, including the hundreds of billions of plastic bags which are typically used for only fifteen (15) minutes before being discarded; and

**WHEREAS**, plastic takes anywhere from 500 to 1,000 years to degrade; and

**WHEREAS**, scientists estimate that approximately one million seabirds and approximately 100,000 mammals are killed every year as a result of consuming plastics; and

**WHEREAS**, individual and free market efforts to address such issues associated with the use of disposable plastic products have slowed, and more cooperation is needed to ensure health and safety for the better protection of the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, a petition, containing almost 650 signatures of residents of the Borough of Gettysburg expressing concern over the environmental dangers of plastics

and calling for action on the part of Borough Council, was presented to Borough Council at a public meeting.

**WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Borough Council of the Borough of Gettysburg, Adams County, Pennsylvania, in consideration of the foregoing recitals and the petition referenced therein, does hereby approve and adopt the following policies for the reduction of the use of disposable plastic products in the Borough of Gettysburg:

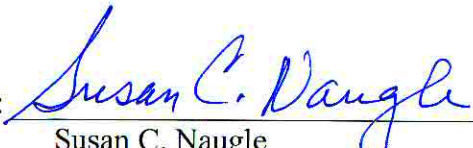
1. The Borough of Gettysburg recognizes the importance of long-term elimination of discharge of litter and microplastics into the planet's waterways and oceans thereby avoiding detriment to marine ecosystems and fisheries.
2. The Borough of Gettysburg urges local retail businesses to utilize bags made of materials other than plastic, particularly encouraging the use of fabric reusable bags.
3. The Borough of Gettysburg encourages restaurants and other eating establishments to proactively and voluntarily cease using cups, straws, cutlery, bowls, and other containers made of plastic, unless specifically requested by the customer.
4. The Borough of Gettysburg urges all of its residents and visitors to utilize reusable products thereby reducing the impact of single-use disposable plastic products.
5. The Borough of Gettysburg supports the mobilization of its residents, on a personal level, to buy products with less packaging or non-plastic packaging, to not ask for plastic carryout or takeout containers, and to request that restaurants and other eating establishments not systematically provide plastic straws or plastic cutlery for customer usage.
6. The Borough of Gettysburg requests all residents and businesses to do their part in meeting state-mandated recycling requirements.
7. The Borough of Gettysburg, where feasible in all Borough facilities, will transition to the use of compostable trash and refuse bags once current supplies have been used and are exhausted.
8. The Borough of Gettysburg, where feasible in all Borough facilities, will transition to the use of either reusable or compostable utensils, plates and cups in its areas where food and beverages are made available for consumption or are consumed by Borough employees or guests once current supplies of such products have been used and are exhausted.




9. The Borough of Gettysburg supports the passage of federal plastic waste legislation and the implementation of national measures proposed by congressional leaders in order to “prevent plastic pollution from consumer products from impacting animal human food-chains, landscapes, and waterways across the United States.”

**THIS RESOLUTION DULY ADOPTED** according to law on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019, at a duly advertised general monthly business meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Gettysburg, Adams County, Pennsylvania.

**BOROUGH OF GETTYSBURG**

By:   
Susan C. Naugle  
President of Borough Council

Attest:

  
Sara L. Stull, Secretary