
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

November 14, 2019

Ald. Cavalier Johnson
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Ban on single-use plastic straws moved forward by committee

The Public Safety and Health Committee today (Thursday, November 14) recommended for approval an ordinance that would prohibit Milwaukee food establishments and alcohol beverage establishments from providing single-use, plastic beverage straws to customers.

The legislation – authored by **Alderman Cavalier Johnson** – is similar to legislation adopted in other cities and municipalities across the U.S. meant to substantially reduce the number of single-use plastic straws that too often end up as litter in public spaces and have a negative impact on the environment.

“By design these plastic straws are meant to be used and thrown away after just one use, and far too often they become litter and are easily washed into our sewers and waterways or blown into streets and neighborhoods,” Alderman Johnson said.

“Literally millions of plastic straws are ending up in rivers, lakes and other bodies of water across our city, county, state, and the nation,” he continued. “We need to take action and that’s what this legislation is meant to do.”

The ordinance would provide a grace period for food and beverage establishments to adjust their practices and educate customers. The single-use plastic straw ban would go into effect on April 14, 2020.

The ordinance is expected to be taken up by the full Common Council at its next meeting on Tuesday, November 26. Co-sponsors of the ordinance include Alderman Robert Bauman, Alderman Nik Kovac, Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II, Alderman José G. Pérez and Alderwoman Nikiya Dodd.