**A RESOLUTION TO COMMIT THE CITY OF SAVANNAH TO PROTECT ITS NATURE, WATERWAYS AND NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS THROUGH MANAGEMENT OF ACCEPTABLE SINGLE USE PACKAGING AND PRODUCTS**

WHEREAS, from manufacture to waste streams, single use plastic (SUP) and expanded polystyrene foam (EPF) contributes to global greenhouse gas emissions and climate change which the City of Savannah is committed to reducing through it’s a 100% Clean Energy resolution; and

WHEREAS, for the purposes of this Resolution, single use plastics and EPF shall be defined as disposable plastics that are non-essential, typically used once before they are discarded, to include plastic bags, straws, coffee stirrers, cups, utensils and most plastic food packaging, for which broadly available alternatives are available; and

WHEREAS, as the Hostess City of the South, our historic and beautiful streets attract tourism which also drives the demand for SUP and EFP; and

WHEREAS, the City of Savannah can reap many immediate and long term benefits from protecting its natural environment, neighborhood streets, local economy and public health; and

WHEREAS, plastics have been discovered in beer, house dust, table salt, fish, shellfish, honey, and even human feces and can be linked to hormone disruption, reproductive problems, developmental toxicity and cancer; and

WHEREAS, every day around 8 million pieces of plastic makes their way into our oceans and waterways and hundreds of species of wildlife and fish are threatened or killed by ingestion or entanglement in single use plastics; and

WHEREAS, encouraging the development of acceptable single use products and green business models and ventures provides sustainable economic opportunities for our coast; and

WHEREAS, regulating the use of single use plastics and EPF take-out food packaging and replacing it with food service ware that is locally recyclable or compostable and restricting the use of plastics and EPF products will support the City’s goal of a beautiful, healthy, sustainable community; and

WHEREAS, regional model ordinances recently passed in cities such as Atlanta GA, Clarkston GA, and Fulton County GA are available for guidance on language and phases of implementation;

WHEREAS, education of all sectors of the Savannah community will lead to a sustainable and just transition away from SUP and EPF; and

WHEREAS, the City of Savannah commits to serving environmental justice neighborhoods and future generations, who are disproportionately impacted by blight, litter, and industrial developments such as plastic production; and

THEREFORE, THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVE that the City of Savannah, by passage of this resolution declares its commitment to protect its nature, waterways, neighborhood streets, local economy and public health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Savannah shall phase out purchasing of single use plastics and expanded polystyrene foam where practicable and transition to acceptable packaging and products by one year from the date of this resolution within City of Savannah buildings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Savannah will explore the provision of resources, such as marketing promotion and grants for small local and minority owned businesses who would like to transition to acceptable packaging and products that will reduce SUP waste while also creating an opportunity to improve business models across Savannah.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, City staff will periodically review and update the list of non-essential single use plastics that pertain to this Resolution, in consultation with and approval by the City Manager; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Savannah will actively support collective State policy and County policy to promote these goals with other Georgia municipalities that have passed similar resolutions, including Atlanta, Fulton County, and Clarkston.

SO RESOLVED, this \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2021.