



Jennifer Forkish

The American Chemistry Council

17 November 2010

Dear Jennifer,

We wanted to thank you for agreeing to talk to the South Robertson community at the November meeting of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council Green Team Committee presenting the viewpoint of the American Chemistry Council. It is important for our community to hear both sides of an issue in order for them to make an informed decision on subjects that will impact their lives.

Your articulate presentation of your perspective on the topic of plastic bags, the environment, and the economy was insightful and important to hear. They learned that we have common goals to reduce and eliminate waste, and the alternative ways to achieving this shared goal. You handled a tough audience with patience, respect, and thoughtfulness. The group gave you high marks after you left. We regret you were unable to stay to hear them.

There are no simple answers to the impact of plastic on the environment, but we thank you again for taking time out of your evening to help our community try to make sense out of this complex problem by examining all viewpoints.

The committee voted to forward the motion to the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council Board with a recommendation that the City Council seriously consider a ban on single-use plastic bags. We will let you know the results of their vote that will take place on November 17th.

Yours truly,

Paula Waxman

Larry Hess

Co-chairs, South Robertson Neighborhoods Council Green Team

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Gerald Chavarria
Secretary

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

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Ms. Kirsten James
Heal the Bay
1444 9th Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401

17 November 2010

Dear Kirsten,

We wanted to thank you for agreeing to talk to the South Robertson community at the November meeting of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council Green Team Committee, presenting the perspective of the Heal the Bay. It is important for our community to hear both sides of an issue in order for them to make an informed decision on subjects that will impact their lives.

Your articulate presentation of Heal the Bay's viewpoint on the topic of plastic bags, the impact on the environment, marine life and the economy was insightful and important to hear. You laid out the problem with clarity and sound data. The group gave you high marks after you left.

There are no simple answers to the impact of plastic on the environment, but we thank you again for taking time out of your evening to help our community try to make sense out of this complex problem by examining all viewpoints.

The committee voted to forward the motion to the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council Board with a recommendation that the City Council seriously consider a ban on single-use plastic bags. We will let you know the results of their vote that will take place on November 17th.

Yours truly,

Paula Waxman

Larry Hess

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LIAISON BETWEEN SORO NC AND SORO INC.

The role of the liaison is to facilitate communication between SORO NC and SoRo Inc. regarding each organization's activities and priorities. This individual's responsibility is to help the exchange of information and understanding between the two organizations. The liaison is a member of the SORO NC Board, appointed by SORO NC and subject to approval by SoRo Inc. Specific duties are:

1. Attend the quarterly meetings of SoRo Inc. This will require about 1½ hours four times a year. Meeting dates are selected at each meeting.
2. Report briefly at SoRo Inc. Board meetings on activities and issues of SORO NC as they pertain to SoRo Inc.
3. Attend the monthly meetings of SORO NC and report on SoRo Inc. issues.
4. Help keep communication between the two organizations open and transparent, and insure that SORO NC has a clear understanding of SoRo Inc.'s role as a support organization to SORO NC and the community.
5. Advise SoRo Inc. if and when there is a likely opportunity to assist SORO NC, try to recognize when there is a potential for misunderstanding and work to minimize it, and refer specific inquiries to the appropriate individuals on each board.

The liaison is not a member of the SoRo Inc. Board and does not have voting privileges on that board, nor is he or she an official representative of either organization.



Motion to Support a Motion Pending Before the L.A. City Council Implementing a Citywide Ban of Single- Use Plastic Bags

Agenda Item: GB111810-5
Date: November 17, 2010
Proposed By: The Soro Green Team Committee

Summary

Pending before the L.A. City Council is a motion to implement a citywide ban of single-use plastic bags. L.A. residents use an estimated 6 billion plastic bags a year. Because they do not completely decompose, they have become a pollution problem. It is costing the city millions of dollars a year to abate the effects of plastic bags. Efforts by the County Board of Supervisors to get the stores to reduce bag use has been unsuccessful.

Full Proposal

L.A. residents use an estimated 6 billion single-use plastic bags a year. Plastic bags...are essentially "forever": they do not biodegrade or dissolve into organic matter that can reenter the life cycle. Instead plastic photodegrades, which means it breaks up into smaller pieces when exposed to sunlight." (Algalita Marine Research Foundation, "Pelagic Plastic" April 9th, 2007).

Plastic from these bags which makes it to the ocean are mistaken for food and eaten by marine life. It then clogs their intestines and leads to starvation or, if they survive, it enters our food chain. "Plastic debris affects at least 267 species worldwide, including 86% of all sea turtle species, 44% of all seabird species, and 43% of all marine mammal species. (Laist, D.W. (1997) "Impacts of marine debris..." New York: Springer-Verlag; J.G.B. Derraik). The loss of these species is not only an environmental disaster but significantly effects the fishing industries.

Because oceans connect the globe, our marine debris is becoming a global problem. Currents carry plastic originating along the Pacific Coast to the North Pacific Central Gyre. Studies by the Algalita Marine Research Foundation "...found that six times by weight more plastic particles than zooplankton exist in this location." (C.J. Moore et al., (2001) "A Comparison of Plastic and Plankton in the Pacific Central Gyre" Marine Pollution Bulletin 42:297-1300.)

Although recycling efforts have improved, recycled plastic is different from products like glass or aluminum that can be made back into the products they were before. "...recycled plastic becomes clothing or carpet that goes to the landfill once its second use is finished." (Stallone, Steve, "Plastic Seduction," San Francisco Bay Guardian (15 Dec. 1993)

Plastic bag litter on land also poses an expensive problem for the City of Los Angeles. One study has estimated that the cost to subsidize the collection, recycling, disposal, and environmental clean up of plastic and paper bags could be as high as \$.17 per bag (1 billion dollars per year). Governments must absorb the costs of cleaning littered streets, beaches, and catch basins that become clogged with plastic bag debris, increasing flood risk.

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Proposed Motion

That the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council write the attached letter to The City Council in support of the following motion pending before the City Council:

"...that the Bureau of Sanitation be instructed to report back to the City Council with the next steps necessary to implement a citywide ban of single-use plastic bags, and include in that report the status of the County's Environmental Impact Report and the State's Master Environmental Assessment that relates to single-use plastic bags."

(See attached letter.)

Considerations

Pro

Most manufacturers of plastic bags make an array of plastic items, such as food containers and recycled bags. So it will impact only part of their business. It is also assumed that there will be a greater demand for recycled bags.

This same infrastructure can be used to collect other categories of recyclable plastic.

Once plastic bags are taken from circulation, the savings of marine species, wildlife habitat, fishing industry, and costs in litter removal will greatly offset compliance costs

Con

Banning plastic bags will potentially put at risk several hundred manufacturing jobs in the county.

A ban on plastic bags will result in the dismantling of local plastics recycling infrastructure that has been steadily diverting more material from disposal each year

Banning plastic bags will require government to spend scarce resources to implement these new requirements, audit the collection of bag tax revenue and ensure overall compliance.

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



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City of Los Angeles Certified
Neighborhood Council

President Eric Garcetti and Members of the Los Angeles City Council
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

17 November 2010

Re: Implementing a citywide ban of single-use plastic bags

Dear Council President Garcetti and Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council supports the motion pending before the City Council to explore the implementation of a citywide ban of single-use plastic bags.

L.A. residents use an estimated 6 billion plastic bags a year. Because they do not completely decompose, they have become a pollution problem. It is costing the city millions of dollars a year to abate the effects of plastic bags, and efforts by the County Board of Supervisors to get stores to reduce bag use has been unsuccessful.

Plastic bags... "are essentially "forever": they do not biodegrade or dissolve into organic matter that can reenter the life cycle. Instead plastic photodegrades, which means it breaks up into smaller pieces when exposed to sunlight." (Algalita Marine Research Foundation, "Pelagic Plastic" April 9th, 2007). Plastic pieces from these bags, which have made it to the ocean, are mistaken for food and eaten by marine life. It then clogs their intestines and leads to starvation or, if they survive, it enters our food chain. "Plastic debris affects at least 267 species worldwide, including 86% of all sea turtle species, 44% of all seabird species, and 43% of all marine mammal species. (Laist, D.W. (1997) "Impacts of marine debris..." New York: Springer-Verlag; J.G.B. Derraik). The loss of these species is not only an environmental disaster but significantly effects the fishing industries.

Because oceans connect the globe, our marine debris is becoming a global problem. Currents carry plastic originating along the Pacific Coast to the North Pacific Central Gyre. Studies by the Algalita Marine Research Foundation "...found that six times by weight more plastic particles than zooplankton exist in this location." (C.J. Moore et al., (2001) "A Comparison of Plastic and Plankton in the Pacific Central Gyre" Marine Pollution Bulletin 42:297-1300.)

Although recycling efforts have improved, recycled plastic is different from products like glass or aluminum which can be made back into the products they were before. "...recycled plastic becomes clothing or carpet that goes to the landfill once its second use is finished." (Stallone, Steve, "Plastic Seduction," San Francisco Bay Guardian (15 Dec. 1993)

Plastic bag litter on land also poses an expensive problem for the City of Los Angeles. One study has estimated that the cost to subsidize the collection, recycling, disposal, and environmental clean up of plastic and paper bags could be as high as \$.17 per bag (1 billion dollars per year). Governments must absorb the costs of cleaning littered streets, beaches, and catch basins that become clogged with plastic bag debris, increasing flood risk.

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council encourages the City Council to immediately address the environmental and economic problems posed by single-use plastic bags.

Yours truly,

Doug Fitzsimmons, President, South Robertson Neighborhoods Council



Motion to send a letter to PLUM regarding proposed project at 2046 Halm Ave.

Agenda Item: GB111810-6

Date:

Proposed By:

Motion deferred to a future Board meeting.

Doug Fitzsimmons
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South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011
DRAFT 18 November 2010

Funds			
Yearly Allocation			\$ 45,000.00
Rollover			\$ 23,000.00
Total			\$ 68,000.00
Budget			
	Category	Annual Total	
Codes			
		%	Total
100 Operations			
AUD	Audio and Video Services		0
FAC	Facilities Related and Space Rental		1,200
POS	Postage		0
OFF	Office Equipment and Supplies		500
MIS	General Operations/Miscellaneous		2,500
EDU	Board Retreat/Training		0
TAC	Staffing and Temporary Help		0
TRL	Translation and Transcription		0
	Sub Total	6.18%	\$ 4,200
200 Outreach			
ADV	Advertising/ Events		21,300
ELE	Election Outreach and related costs		0
EVE	Outreach Events-Festival		9,000
POS	Postage/mailings		0
EVE	Food and Refreshments for Events and Meetings		0
NEW	Newsletters		0
WEB	Website Maintenance/Enhancement/Creation		0
	Sub Total	44.56%	\$ 30,300
300 Community Improvement			
CIP	Community Improvement Projects		19,500
CIP	Safe Passages-Phones		1,000
CIP	Hanni Garden		3,000
CIP	Emergency Preparedness		5,000
CIP	Economic Development		5,000
	Sub Total	49.26%	\$ 33,500
400 Neighborhood Purpose Grants			
GRT	Neighborhood Purpose Grants		0
	Sub Total	0.00%	\$ -
Grand Total			\$ 68,000

Budget Narrative:

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OPERATIONS:
 Operations includes operational expenses such as: audio/video expenses, translation and transcription costs, rent and maintenance costs related to facilities, fees for space and storage rentals, supplies and copying for board meetings and committee meetings and other administrative expenses such as staffing and temporary help, postage, mail service, business cards and letterhead, board retreats and training, and other expenses deemed necessary by the NC board.

OUTREACH:
 Outreach expenses include, but are not limited to, hosting and maintenance of the NC website, emails and stakeholder database, newsletters, banners, outreach advertising, stakeholder outreach events, elections, postage and mailings related to outreach efforts and other general outreach expenditures as approved by the NC board.

Specific Outreach events should be specifically approved by the NC board and reflected in the minutes.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS :
 Community Improvement Projects and Neighborhood Purpose Grants cover a wide array of projects for the community. Some examples are: costs associated with beautification projects, tree planting, sidewalk washing, median maintenance, infrastructure projects to City owned facilities, sports facilities, fire stations, police station, parks and other community facilities; community based events and programs such as CERT training, disaster awareness and preparedness, neighborhood watch and life and safety programs; graffiti abatement, to name a few.

NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSES GRANTS:
 Qualifying schools and 501(C)3 non-profit organizations are eligible for Neighborhood Purpose Grants.

Specific Community Improvement Projects and Neighborhood Purpose Grants should be specifically approved by the NC Board and reflected in the minutes.

<i>Codes</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Budget Category</i>
ADV	Advertisement	OUTREACH
AUD	Audio and Video Services	OPERATIONS
CIP	Community Improvement Projects	COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT
ELE	Election Expense	OUTREACH
EVE	Event Expense /Food and Refreshments	OUTREACH
FAC	Facilities-Related and Space and Storage rental	OPERATIONS
GRT	Neighborhood Purpose Grant	NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSE GRANT
MAT	Material Distribution	OUTREACH
MEE	Meeting Expenses	OUTREACH
MIS	Misc. Supplies	OPERATIONS
NEW	Newsletter Expense	OUTREACH
OFF	Office Equipment and Supplies	OPERATIONS
RET	Board Retreat and Training Exp.	OPERATIONS
TAC	Staffing and Temporary Help	OPERATIONS
TRL	Translation and Transcription	OPERATIONS
WEB	Website Development and Maintenance	OUTREACH



Motion to fund \$1200 to support 2010 Winter Wonderland Holiday Event

Agenda Item: GB111810-8
Date: 18 November 2010
Proposed By: Kimber Smith

Fund \$1200 to support Winter Wonderland to be held December 18, 2010 at the 10th District Council Office of Herb Wesson, Jr.

Full Proposal

10th District Councilman Herb Wesson Jr. and 101 Enterprises Foundation annually produce the Winter Wonderland holiday event serving needy families within the 10th Council District. On December 18th an estimated 500-600 participants will be hosted at the 10th District office and treated to free lunch, arts & crafts, a snow slide, entertainment, and holiday photos among other gifts and amenities.

Each year, ten families from elementary schools within CD 10 are invited to attend. This year, twenty (rather than the customary ten) needy families from Shenandoah Elementary School who reside within SORO NC boundaries are invited to join the festivities. A family includes all siblings and a parent/guardian who attends with the children. At \$1,200 SORO NC's contribution would represent 8% of the total estimated \$15,000 budget. SORO NC has previously funded \$1,000 for the event.

Proposed Motion

That SORO NC fund \$1,200 to support the 2010 Winter Wonderland event to be held December 18th. Funds may be used to pay for items such as holiday photos, arts and craft supplies, DJ, and production costs.

- I. Twenty families from Shenandoah Elementary School who reside within SORO NC boundaries will be invited to attend.
- II. SORO NC may have an outreach booth at the event should the Board so choose.

Considerations

Pro

Will provide a meal and holiday cheer to twenty (20) needy families residing within SORO NC boundaries.

Will support efforts of active SORO NC partners at CD 10 to provide good will to needy families during the holidays.

Con

Will subtract \$1200 in funds from possible initiatives or efforts by SORO NC to directly serve stakeholders or otherwise fulfill organizational mission and objectives.

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Motion to fund up to \$1000 for business cards for SORO NC Boardmembers

Agenda Item: GB111810-9
Date: 18 November 2010
Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Proposal that SORO NC purchase LA City business cards with SORO NC branding for all board members

Full Proposal

LA City business cards help identify us as official City representatives. In this proposal, each Boardmember would receive a set of 200 cards printed by the City's General Services Department. Each set is \$33.50; the proposal includes money for all 25 seats (\$837.50), so that we don't have to pass future motions once those seats are filled (assuming the price doesn't increase). The motion also includes a contingency for unforeseen press costs, future Board attrition, etc.—although since it is up to \$1000, we are not committed to spend the full amount.

The cards themselves will include an engraved City seal on the front and the SORO NC logo in green. The cards also include the member's contact info, seat, major SORO office/chair held, and term expiration (required by the City).

Doug Fitzsimmons
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Gerald Chavarria
Secretary

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer



Proposed Motion

To approve up to \$1000 for the printing of business cards for SORO NC Boardmembers.

Considerations

Pro

Helps Boardmembers identify themselves to the community

Helps reinforce that the NC is an official City entity.

Con

Cost

We could (perhaps) find a less expensive printer (although not if we want an engraved city seal, union logo, etc.)

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