

CITY OF LAUREL  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



CRAIG A. MOE  
MAYOR

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**Executive Order No. 2021-14**

**Subject:** Eliminating the Use of Single-Use Straws and Stirrers      **Effective Date:** December 1, 2021

**WHEREAS**, the City of Laurel is committed to establishing and implementing government practices that will serve the public not just presently, but for future generations to come; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Laurel is committed to making the City as environmentally responsible and sustainable as possible and being one of the greenest cities in Prince George's County, Maryland by adopting environmentally and sustainable policies and practices; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Laurel is a member of the Patuxent River Commission, and has adopted the *Implementation of the Patuxent River Policy Plan*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Patuxent River is one of eight major tributaries flowing into the Chesapeake Bay. It is Maryland's longest and deepest river; the length and width are contained entirely within Maryland; and

**WHEREAS**, the Patuxent River flows 110 miles and stretches more than one mile across at its entrance to the Chesapeake Bay. Its watershed covers 937 square miles, extends into multiple jurisdictions within the state, including seven counties in the Baltimore/Washington D.C. metropolitan area, two of Maryland's largest cities, Laurel and Bowie; and

**WHEREAS**, it is reported that approximately 8.8 million tons of plastic pollution flows into the ocean each year, and this amount is expected to double by 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the responsibility of all communities to do their part in cleaning up our oceans and continue with our efforts to keep the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay clean; and

**WHEREAS**, single-use plastic pollution accumulates most visibly on our streets which enters waterways as plastics tossed on the street are washed away by rain or travel via storm drains into tributaries, rivers and streams; and

**WHEREAS**, to continue the City's environmental and sustainable agenda, the City has taken several measures to reduce polystyrene waste within the City of Laurel, Prince George's County; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's elected leadership continues to set policy using best practices, it is of critical importance that the City also commit itself to eliminating the use of single-use plastic straws and plastic stirrers in City operations;

**Therefore, I Craig A. Moe, Mayor City of Laurel, by virtue of the powers vested in me pursuant to the City of Laurel Charter and the laws of the State of Maryland, hereby order and direct the following actions be taken by all of City Government:**

1. It is the policy of this Administration that City Departments, officials, and employees eliminate the use of plastic straws in all aspects of City operations.
2. The City shall require all vendors supplying the City with goods or services to eliminate the use of single-use straws and stirrers when rendering such goods.
3. This commitment shall apply to all future procurements that City Departments, officials, and employees engage in during the course of City operations.
4. The use of reusable straws made of rigid plastic, silicone, bamboo, glass, metal or compostable straws made of paper are acceptable.
5. This Order does not apply to beverages that have a plastic straw affixed during the pre-packaging process, such as juice boxes and pouches.
6. This Order does not apply where it would interfere with the accommodation of any individual's physical or medical needs. A limited stock of plastic straws may be stored and

made available to accommodate any individual's physical or medical needs and remain compliant with local, State, and Federal disability rights laws. Any organization, person, or group that rents or uses a City of Laurel facility/room/office shall follow this Executive Order to its fullest.

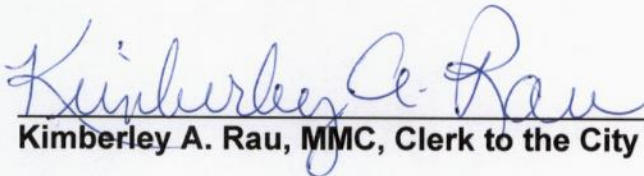
**This Executive Order is effective December 1, 2021.** Any Department in the City Government with single-use plastic straws or stirrers shall use what is left in supply, but, if by the effective date of this Executive Order supplies are still left (other than a limited stock as noted above to accommodate a physical or medical need), Management and Supervisors will dispose of what is left in the proper manner that is in the best interest of the community and the environment.



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**Craig A. Moe**  
**Mayor**

Received and filed July 2, 2021:



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**Kimberley A. Rau, MMC, Clerk to the City Council**