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Subject: questions on single use items

Good Evening Mayor and Council

Please see below questions and answers to this report that we have received from councilors:

- 1) Is the most important reason to delay plastic straw ban to April 2020 the stakeholder consultation? What are the timing concerns re: provincial regulations?
 - Yes, the most important reason to delay a ban on plastic straws is due to what we're hearing during the stakeholder consultation on the by-laws.
 - What we are hearing from businesses and the accessibility community during the current consultation is that it's important for stakeholders to receive support from the City in the form of education and outreach, with clear guidelines on acceptable alternatives, before new by-law requirements come into effect; time is required to develop these education and outreach materials
 - The stakeholder consultation on the single-use item by-laws was delayed because of the election period.
 - Staff propose to phase in a ban on plastic straws in two phases according to license type. The details will be informed by the final consultation results which will be completed this May and presented to Council by November 30.
 - Provincial regulations - Staff are not aware of any existing or pending provincial regulations for plastic straws at this time. Vancouver adopting a ban on the unnecessary use of plastic straws could help to accelerate the timeline for action at the provincial level.

- 2) Are there concerns regarding the capacity of the recycling industry to handle
 - Based on research conducted for the City by a consultant who interviewed 10 compost facilities used by local and regional producers of compostable materials, staff have concerns about the ability of local compost facilities to process compostable plastic. In addition, there is significant potential for compostable plastic to contaminate recycling streams and vice versa.
 - As part of the education and outreach campaign that would be developed to accompany the ban on foam cups and take-out containers, staff will develop materials that educate businesses about choosing materials that can be accepted in Recycle BC's residential recycling program (blue box) or the City's Green Bin program.

- 3) Have staff investigated the just transition for workers as per direction given in last year's report? Outcomes?
 - In June 2018, staff were directed to identify opportunities for the City to support affected businesses and other organizations in the transition away from polystyrene foam cups and containers. Staff have engaged businesses and non-profits in Vancouver about the kinds of support they need to help with the transition. Staff propose to undertake the actions described in Appendix D of the Report to support businesses, non-profits and residents in the transition.

- 4) Do you have a problem with removing the words "if littered" in recommendation D.ii?
 - Single-use items are prevalent in litter in streetscapes and marine environments. A key objective of the Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy is to address this issue. The intent of the words "if littered" is to underscore that compostable plastics are not safe to be littered,

- rather than to promote littering.
- Staff have no problem removing “if littered” from the recommendation if it’s felt to be clearer.

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.