

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-24

**A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF PINECREST, FLORIDA,
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION TO RESTRICT THE
USE OF PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS; PROVIDING FOR AN
EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, the Village of Pinecrest is increasingly concerned about the adverse environmental and political consequences of the use of plastic shopping bags by retail establishments when an alternative to their use – paper or re-usable bags – already exists; and

WHEREAS, plastic shopping bags are made from polyethylene, a thermoplastic made from oil, and reducing our dependence on plastic bags will reduce our dependence on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, National Geographic estimated that between 500 billion and 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide each year (as of 2003); and

WHEREAS, the United States alone uses 100 billion plastic shopping bags annually at an estimated cost to retailers of \$4 billion (Wall Street Journal); and

WHEREAS, less than 1% of plastic bags are recycled because it costs more to recycle a bag than make a new one (Christian Science Monitor); and

WHEREAS, plastic bags account for over 10% of the debris washed up on the U.S. coastline (National Marine Debris Monitoring Program);

WHEREAS, as plastic bags degrade, over time they break down into smaller, more toxic petro-polymers which eventually may contaminate soils and waterways (CNN.com/technology); and

WHEREAS, The Florida Legislature enacted F.S. 403.7033 which prevents local governments from enacting “any rule, regulation, or ordinance regarding use, disposition, sale,

prohibition, restriction, or tax of such auxiliary containers, wrappings, or disposable bags” pending completion of an analysis by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection submitted the “Retail Bags Report to the Legislature” in 2010; and

WHEREAS, The Florida Legislature has not taken any action to further address the issue and such inaction perpetuates the use of plastic bags and exacerbates their adverse effect upon the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council believes it is in the best interest of the State of Florida to act decisively to reduce the use of plastic shopping bags by retail establishments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF PINECREST, FLORIDA:

Section 1. That the Village Council hereby urges The Florida Legislature to either repeal F.S. 403.7033 to allow local governments to regulate the use of plastic shopping bags by retail establishments or in the alternative take action to either ban or at least severely limit the use of plastic bags.

Section 2. That the Village Council hereby also urges Miami-Dade County and the Miami-Dade County League of Cities to support repeal of F.S. 403.7033 and work towards developing a county-wide program for discouraging or reducing the use of plastic shopping bags.

Section 3. That the Village Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the members of the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation, the officers of The Florida Legislature, and the Governor.

Section 4. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of May, 2012.


Cindy Lerner, Mayor

Attest:



Guido H. Inguanzo, Jr., CMC
Village Clerk

Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency



Cynthia A. Everett
Village Attorney



Motion by: Councilmember Corradino
Second by: Councilmember Cutler

Vote: Councilmembers Corradino, Cutler, Ross, Vice Mayor Harter, and Mayor Lerner voting Yes