

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, single-use plastics such as straws, cups, utensils, and take-out containers are not recyclable and must be landfilled; and

**WHEREAS**, single-use plastic bags are recyclable but still cause harm in the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, single-use plastics remain in the environment indefinitely, harming wildlife, impacting water quality, and diminishing the aesthetic character of the County's outdoor environment; and

**WHEREAS**, plastics do not biodegrade in the environment, but instead break down into smaller micro-plastics; and

**WHEREAS**, single-use plastic pollution presents a danger to public health by increasing the pathogens and chemicals in animal tissue, waterways and lowering water quality, requiring significant resources to address; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapel Hill, Orange County and our neighboring towns wish to recognize National Skip the Straw Month to encourage residents to give up single use plastic straws; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapel Hill, Orange County and our neighboring towns wish to promote the reduction in the use of ALL single-use plastics by residents and businesses by encouraging reuse and durable alternatives, refusing single-use plastics when offered, and offering compostable or reusable alternatives; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapel Hill, Orange County and our neighboring towns are known for and committed to social and technical innovation, environmental and waste reduction leadership.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we, the Chapel Hill Town Council, do hereby declare October 2018 as "Reduce Single Use Plastics Month" and declare March 2019 as "Skip the Straw Month" in the Town of Chapel Hill and urge everyone to take steps to reduce their consumption of single use plastics.



GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF  
THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL ON THIS THE  
SEVENTEENTH DAY OF OCTOBER IN THE  
YEAR TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN.

*Ram Hemming*

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