



# Sanibel's Straw Ban

Important information for Sanibel businesses and residents regarding Ordinance 18-008 banning sale & distribution of plastic straws within the City of Sanibel

## Why Did Sanibel Ban Single-Use Plastic Straws

- \* Plastic consumption world wide totaled 335 million metric tons in 2016, meaning each of the world's billions of humans generates over 88 pounds of plastic a year
- \* In the U.S., up to 500 million plastic straws are used everyday and many end up in our environment
- \* Plastic straws commonly slip through the cracks of waste-recycling processes, polluting our rivers and oceans, threatening marine and other wildlife
- \* A growing number of states and municipalities recognize these dangers and are implementing plastic straw bans, many coastal communities in Florida
- \* Sanibel believes this ban will help preserve our precious environment and prevent further injurious effects to marine and wildlife

## What is Banned & The Exceptions

- \* Ordinance 18-008 provides that:
  - A Plastic Straw shall not be sold or distributed within the City of Sanibel in or by any commercial establishment or at any City Facility or City Property or by any Special Event Permittee
- \* Ordinance 18-008 does NOT ban food grade paper straws, straws made of composite plant material or straws made of metal, wood, ceramic or similar materials designed for re-use
- \* The ban also does not apply to:
  - Pre-packaged beverages that are prepared and packaged outside of the City;
  - Medical or dental facilities;
  - Use of a plastic straw by any disabled person that requires a straw to consume beverages or food supplements;
  - A plastic straw that is included as a part of a re-usable beverage container intended for continued use; and
  - Land or facilities outside the control of the City of Sanibel, such as those owned by Lee County, the State of Florida or the Federal Government

## Who is Affected?

- \* Ordinance 18-008 applies to any commercial establishment, including sponsors of special events, in the City of Sanibel

## When is the Ban Effective?

- \* Ordinance 18-008 was adopted on September 10, 2018 and will begin being enforced on January 8, 2019

## How Will the Ban be Enforced?

- \* The City will conduct an educational campaign for 120 days to inform businesses of these provisions and provide assistance in identifying alternatives
- \* After 120 days, on January 8, 2019, the City's Code Enforcement Officer shall enforce violations of the Ordinance, with the penalties as follows:
  - \* 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Written Warning on file with the City
  - \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Within any one year period, \$50.00 fine
  - \* 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Within any one year period, \$200.00 fine
  - \* 4<sup>th</sup> and Subsequent Offenses within any one year period, \$500.00
- \* Each Day that a violation occurs is a separate violation

## Questions?

If you have any questions, contact the Community Services Director Keith Williams at (239) 472-6397 or email [keith.williams@mysanibel.com](mailto:keith.williams@mysanibel.com)