

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No.

WHEREAS, Low recycling rates in Providence pose a serious threat to public health and local ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, When recycling is contaminated or neglected, waste, especially plastics, ends up polluting our waterways, greenspaces, and streets, harming wildlife and reducing residents' quality of life; and

WHEREAS, This issue is particularly urgent given that Providence currently has the lowest recycling rate in the state at just 2.9%, compared to the state average of 18.5%; and

WHEREAS, Providence also experiences high levels of recycling contamination. In FY24 alone, 18,000 tons of contaminated recycling were diverted to the Johnston landfill, costing the City nearly \$2 million; and

WHEREAS, The City's Special Commission for the Study of Providence's Waste Management Services confirmed these findings and issued recommendations to improve recycling outcomes and reduce waste; and

WHEREAS, One such recommendation was to support statewide bottle deposit legislation, as proposed in House Bill 6206; and

WHEREAS, Implementing a bottle return program would significantly increase beverage container recovery by creating an incentive-based recycling system that complements, rather than relies on, curbside collection; and

WHEREAS, States with bottle deposit laws consistently report higher recycling rates, reduced litter, more accessible redemption options at retail locations, and higher-quality recyclable materials; and

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council recognizes the commitment of the Rhode Island General Assembly to addressing recycling contamination and plastics pollution in both dedicated legislation and more expansive efforts to address plastics, including extended producer responsibility, in legislation such as House Bill 6207.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, In an effort to replicate these results in Providence, the City Council expresses its support for House Bill 6206 and its Senate companion bill as well as for House Bill 6207 and its Senate companion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to lead sponsors Representatives Spears and McEntee, Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives K. Joseph Shekarchi, President of the Rhode Island Senate Pro Tempore Hanna Gallo, and the members of the Providence Delegation.

A True Copy,
Attest



Tina L. Mastroianni
City Clerk