

From: [Pat Bakalian](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Cc: [Pat Bakalian](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOOD WARE AND LITTER REDUCTION ORDINANCE
Date: Sunday, December 13, 2020 5:29:01 PM

Dear Santa Rosa City Council Members:

I am a concerned citizen of Santa Rosa and want to thank you for your work to decrease the amount of polystyrene and PFAS coated food packing from our landfill.

I urge you to also support the proposed ban of polystyrene and PFAS in food ware as soon as possible and NOT WAIT until 2022.

The CDC has said PFAS is linked to a decreased effectiveness of vaccines and lowers immunity. <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/index.html>

We don't need PFAS added to our bodies anytime, especially not during a pandemic. In addition, many low-income people eat fast food. We must care for all our citizens. Please don't expose them to dangerous chemicals in PFAS.

Now is the time to act and NOT WAIT until 2022. I urge you to please support a fully compostable food ware program in Santa Rosa by banning PFAS **as soon as possible**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pat Bakalian
240 Bicentennial Way #622
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

December 14, 2020

Dear City Council members,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on item 3.1, Consideration of a reusable and compostable food ware and litter reduction ordinance. My name is Michael Hansen and I am a Senior Scientist with Consumer Reports. We have an office in San Francisco, in addition to our office in Yonkers, NY, where our headquarters is located.

The proposed Ordinance—*Ordinance to Prohibit Use and Sale of Disposable Food Service Ware and Other Products Containing Polystyrene Foam*—aims to institute a fully compostable food ware program in Santa Rosa, the Ordinance bans use of disposable food service ware and other products containing polystyrene foam, it does not ban food ware coated with per and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS). We urge you to add a ban on disposable food ware coated with PFAS.

First, PFAS are a class of chemicals known to harm human health. Some of the toxic effects associated with exposure to these chemicals include immunotoxicity, cancer, thyroid disease, birth defects, and decreased sperm quality.¹ They reduce the immune response to childhood vaccines and may increase the risk of infectious disease.² In addition, PFAS exposure has been directly linked to several underlying conditions that make people more vulnerable to severe symptoms of COVID-19, including obesity, asthma, kidney disease, and high cholesterol.³ Compared to people with no underlying conditions, patients who have these conditions are six times as likely to be hospitalized with COVID-19 and 12 times as likely to die of the disease.⁴

Second, some manufacturers add PFAS to food packaging to make it water- and grease-resistant, which can contaminate the food with which it comes into contact. Indeed, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) last year reported that it had detected PFAS in a variety of foods purchased around the country, including produce, meats and seafood.⁵ People are exposed when they eat the contaminated food. In a recent test, PFAS were detected in the packaging of foods

¹ <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/index.html>

² Grandjean P and E Butdz-Jørgensen. 2013. Immunotoxicity of perfluorinated alkylates: calculation of benchmark doses based on serum concentrations in children. *Env Health* 12(35). At: <https://ehjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1476-069X-12-35>

³ <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/index.html>

⁴ Stokes EK, Zambrano LD, Anderson KN et al. 2020. Coronavirus Disease 2019 Case Surveillance—United States, January 22-May 30, 2020. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2020; 69:759-765. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6924e2>

⁵ <http://blogs.edf.org/health/2019/11/20/fdas-updated-results-for-pfas-in-food-suggest-progress-but-raise-questions-about-its-method/>

sold by major retailers.⁶ This prompted some retailers to announce a switch to safer alternatives, thereby demonstrating the availability of and feasibility of non-PFAS food packaging.

Not surprisingly given their widespread use, PFAS are detectable in the blood of 97 percent of people in the United States.⁷ They have been termed “forever chemicals” because they do not break down in our bodies or the environment owing to the strength of the bonds formed by their carbon and fluorine atoms. It is urgent that we eliminate the use of these chemicals wherever possible to reduce our exposure and resulting health risks.

Since many PFAS are so resistant to break down, their presence in food ware means that they will leach out in the landfill and enter the environment. In addition, the increase in the consumption of take-out foods as a result of the pandemic has increased the risk of consumer exposure to PFAS.

Third, there are alternatives to PFAS-treated food ware, and major retailers and restaurants including Panera Bread, Taco Bell, Chipotle, Whole Foods Market, Sweetgreen, Cava, and Freshii have already started the switch to these safer alternatives.⁸

In sum, for reasons noted above, we urge you to add a ban on disposable food ware coated with PFAS in addition to polystyrene foam. The states of Maine, New York and Washington have imposed a ban on PFAS in food packaging.⁹ A number of cities have as well, including San Francisco and Berkeley. We urge Santa Rosa to join this list.

Sincerely,

Michael Hansen, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist

⁶ <https://toxicfreefuture.org/packaged-in-pollution/>

⁷ Lewis RC, Johns LE, Meeker JD. 2015. Serum Biomarkers of Exposure to Perfluoroalkyl Substances in Relation to Serum Testosterone and Measures of Thyroid Function among Adults and Adolescents from NHANES 2011–2012. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 12(6): 6098–6114. At: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4483690/pdf/ijerph-12-06098.pdf>

⁸ <https://toxicfreefuture.org/pfas-free-paper-food-packaging-alternatives-a-resource-for-restaurants-and-retailers/>

⁹ *Id.*

From: [Jenny Bard](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments re Reusable and compostable food ware and litter reduction ordinance
Date: Monday, December 14, 2020 11:30:41 AM

Dear Mayor Rogers and City Council Members,

I am writing to support the proposed ban on polystyrene and PFAs in food ware you will be considering at your study session tomorrow.

While I commend the city for including a ban on polystyrene and PFAs in the proposed ordinance, ***the date for implementation must be sooner than 2022***. These dangerous chemicals do not break down in the environment, end up in our waste stream and can leach from containers into our food and bodies.
(https://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/PFAS_FactSheet.html)

The CDC has warned that PFAs may also decrease the effectiveness of vaccines.
([https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/index.html#:~:text=CDC%2FATSDR%20recognizes%20that%20exposure, resistance%20\(NTP%2C%202016\).](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/index.html#:~:text=CDC%2FATSDR%20recognizes%20that%20exposure, resistance%20(NTP%2C%202016).))

It is imperative that we reduce the ways in which we are exposed to PFAs and implement the ban sooner than 2022. The pandemic has increased our use of take-out food and the accumulation of harmful plastics in our environment.

San Francisco, Berkeley, Maine, Washington and as of last week New York have all banned PFAS in food ware.

Thank you for your leadership on this dangerous forever chemical to protect public health. Please implement the new ordinance ASAP and do not wait until 2022. Thank you so much for considering these comments.

Jenny Bard

641 Oak Street

Santa Rosa, CA 95404

From: [Erica Lipanovich](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments; comment@srcity.org](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ban on polystyrene and PFAS
Date: Monday, December 14, 2020 12:32:05 PM

Dear Mayor Rogers and City Council Members,

I am writing on behalf of my little family to support the proposed ban on polystyrene and PFAs in food ware you will be considering at your study session tomorrow.

While I commend the city for including a ban on polystyrene and PFAs in the proposed ordinance, *the date for implementation must be sooner than 2022*. These dangerous chemicals do not break down in the environment, end up in our waste stream and can leach from containers into our food and bodies. Studies show that the youngest members of our community are the most at risk to toxic chemical exposures.

(https://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/PFAS_FactSheet.html)

The CDC has warned that PFAs may also decrease the effectiveness of vaccines.

([https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/index.html#:~:text=CDC%2FATSDR%20recognizes%20that%20exposure,resistance%20\(NTP%2C%202016\).](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/index.html#:~:text=CDC%2FATSDR%20recognizes%20that%20exposure,resistance%20(NTP%2C%202016).))

It is imperative that we reduce the ways in which we are exposed to PFAs and implement the ban sooner than 2022. The pandemic has increased our use of take-out food and the accumulation of harmful plastics in our environment.

San Francisco, Berkeley, Maine, Washington and as of last week New York have all banned PFAS in food ware.

Thank you for your leadership on this dangerous forever chemical to protect public health. Please implement the new ordinance ASAP and do not wait until 2022. Thank you so much for considering these comments. The health of my children and many others is in your hands

Thank you,

The Lipanovich Family

Erica, Nat, Alden (2) and Eric (10 months)

2421 Rancho Cabeza Drive,

Santa Rosa CA 95404

Sent from my iPhone