

From: [Kagan, Leah](#)
To: [Staley, Angelina](#); [Montalvo, Barbara](#); [Hughes, Sheila](#)
Cc: [Breno Donatti](#); [Jackie Wetenhall](#)
Subject: LR31.091 Public Hearing
Date: Monday, April 28, 2025 11:28:28 AM
Importance: High

Hello,

In advance of the upcoming Legislative and Rules Committee Public Hearing on LR31.091 can you please include the email below on the record from business owner Breno Donatti.

Best,
Leah

From: Jackie Wetenhall <retail@stamford-downtown.com>
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2025 2:17 PM
To: Kagan, Leah <LKagan@StamfordCT.gov>
Cc: Michael Moore <moore@stamford-downtown.com>; Breno Donatti <bdonatti@winfieldcoffee.com>
Subject: FW: Reminder: Public Hearing via Zoom on proposed ban of single use plastic product in food establishments
Importance: High

Good Afternoon Leah:

This is a well thought out e-mail from Breno Donatti, owner of Winfield's coffee house next store to the Ferguson Library. Can it be send to the Board of Representatives for consideration? Breno, will be on a plane on Tuesday evening, so he'll not be able to be on the call.

All the Best, Jackie

Jacqueline R. Wetenhall
Vice President & Director Retail Development
Stamford Downtown
5 Landmark Square, Suite 110
Stamford, CT 06901
Ph (203) 348-5285 Fax (203) 348-6857
retail@stamford-downtown.com
Click on www.stamford-downtown.com for the latest!

On Fri, Apr 25, 2025 at 10:23 AM, Breno Donatti <bdonatti@winfieldcoffee.com> wrote:

Jackie,

I will be on a place during the time of this meeting but would like to submit my input for consideration. Would you be able to send the message below to the board for consideration?

Subject: Opposition to Single-Use Plastic Cup Ban – Practical, Environmental, and Scientific Concerns

Dear Board of Representatives,

As a concerned business owner and environmentally conscious citizen, I urge you to reconsider the proposed ban on single-use plastic cups. While the intent to reduce environmental impact is admirable, the actual outcomes of such bans often run counter to their goals—causing more harm than good both ecologically and economically.

1. Scientific Evidence Shows Substitutes Are Worse for the Environment

Numerous life cycle analyses (LCAs) from reputable institutions such as the Danish Environmental Protection Agency and the University of Michigan have concluded that common alternatives—paper cups, bioplastics, and compostable PLA—carry a significantly higher carbon footprint, energy usage, and water consumption than traditional recyclable polypropylene or PET plastic cups. A paper cup must be used at least 3–5 times to equal the carbon footprint of a single-use plastic one—an unrealistic expectation in most coffee shop settings.

2. Recycling Infrastructure Supports Plastic More Than Alternatives

Unlike PLA and “compostable” cups, which are rarely processed in municipal composting facilities, traditional recyclable plastics have a functioning, albeit imperfect, recycling infrastructure. By banning plastic and shifting to materials that cannot be processed at scale, the burden is simply being transferred, not removed.

3. Unintended Consequences for Small Businesses and Consumers

Bans like this disproportionately affect small businesses like mine. We’ve built efficient, customer-friendly systems around recyclable plastic cups that support fast service and cost-effective operations. Paper-based or compostable substitutes are 2 to 4 times more expensive, more fragile, and cause leaks with iced beverages. These lead to increased waste due to spills, customer dissatisfaction, and higher resource consumption to clean and replace drinks—ironically, increasing our net environmental footprint.

4. The Real Problem is Littering, Not Material

Policy should target behavior, not material. A plastic cup in a proper recycling bin poses far less environmental risk than a paper cup littered on the street. Educational campaigns, improved recycling access, and anti-littering enforcement would yield far greater results than material bans.

5. Global Examples Show These Bans Don't Work

Ireland, the UK, and parts of Canada have already rolled out plastic bans with disappointing results: emissions increased, consumer confusion grew, and enforcement was uneven. In many cases, carbon and water use went up—not down.

I respectfully propose:

- Instead of an outright ban, incentivize closed-loop recycling programs and allow certified recyclable plastics under regulated guidelines.
- Support grant programs to help small businesses invest in cup-return systems or in-store reusable initiatives.
- Promote public education over blanket bans.

Let's be solution-focused, not symbolic. I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to a working group or provide testimony on this matter.

Sincerely,

Breno Donatti

CEO & Founder, Winfield Street Coffee

breno@winfieldcoffee.com

[Breno Donatti](#)

[@winfieldstreetcoffee](#)

www.winfieldcoffee.com

From: Jackie Wetenhall <retail@stamford-downtown.com>

Sent: Friday, April 25, 2025 8:59 AM

To: Breno Donatti <bdonatti@winfieldcoffee.com>

Subject: Reminder: Public Hearing via Zoom on proposed ban of single use plastic product in food establishments

Good Morning Restaurant Owners:

Important reminder, please attend via Zoom, so we can hear from Restaurant Owners & Managers. The Board of Representatives is conducting a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 29th at 7pm. The hearing (before the vote) is for input from restaurants owners on the impact this ordinance will have on your business. The proposed ordinance seeks to ban the sale, provision and distribution of single use plastic products in food and beverage establishments. See details on the attachment.

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

7:00 p.m.

This meeting will be held remotely. The meeting can be accessed by computer, tablet or smartphone at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89805417184> or at www.zoom.com – Webinar ID: - 898 0541 7184 or by telephone at 1 646 558 8656 – Webinar ID: 898 0541 7184

Please contact me at (203) 348-5285 if you have any questions.

All the Best, Jackie

Jacqueline R. Wetenhall
Vice President & Director Retail Development
Stamford Downtown
5 Landmark Square, Suite 110
Stamford, CT 06901
Ph (203) 348-5285 Fax (203) 348-6857
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