

**DRAFT**  
**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE – 8<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**June 22nd, 2015 – 6:30 PM**

Cumulative Attendance 1/2015 through 12/2015				
MEMBERS	APT By	ATTENDANCE	PRESENT	ABSENT
1. Alena Alberani, Chair	II	P	5	1
2. Jason Liechty, Vice Chair	IV	P	6	0
3. Daniel Ayers	M	A	4	2
4. Lawrence Clark	I	P	4	0
5. Lance Cutrer	I	P	4	0
6. Jeffrey Huber	II	P	4	1
7. Jim Moyer	III	P	6	0
8. Chad Scott	II	P	4	1
9. Mate Thitisawat	C	P	4	2
10. Enrique Vadiveloo	IV	P	5	1
11. Cheryl Whitfield	III	P	5	1

**Staff Present**

Sustainability Division of Public Works

Adrienne Ehle, Environmental Analyst, Interim Staff Liaison

Nancy Gassman, Assistant Public Works Director – Sustainability Division

Zach McGinnis, Senior Management Fellow

Ellison Fellers, Intern

**Call of Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Alberani at 6:32 pm, roll was called, and it was determined a quorum was present.

### **Communication to the City Commission**

The Sustainability Advisory Board recommends that the City of Fort Lauderdale restrict the sale and use of expanded polystyrene (commonly known by one company's trademarked name for the material, Styrofoam) to protect City waterways, beaches, and other public property and rights-of-way from litter and pollution.

Expanded polystyrene is a petroleum-based material which is difficult to recycle, does not biodegrade, and is so lightweight that it is easily dispersed by wind and rain. It often breaks down into smaller pieces which become permanent litter, since they cannot be easily removed from beaches, parks, waterways, and other public property. In addition, small pieces of expanded polystyrene can be ingested by marine life, birds, and other animals, harming or killing them.

Several coastal communities in southeast Florida have acted recently to reduce expanded polystyrene litter. Most notably, the Miami Beach City Commission last year adopted several ordinances which prohibit:

- The carrying of expanded polystyrene products onto city beaches, piers, docks, boat ramps or into city parks.
- The sale or use of expanded polystyrene food service products in public facilities and on public property by municipal contractors, vendors, lessees, concessionaires, operators of municipal properties, and special event permittees.
- The placement of expanded polystyrene food service containers on the right of way, including use by sidewalk cafés permitted by the city.

The City of Miami Beach ordinances have met with wide acceptance from the community, including local businesses. Recyclable or compostable alternatives to expanded polystyrene food service products are widely available and affordable. In addition, Walgreens agreed to stop selling expanded polystyrene coolers in Miami Beach, to reduce a potential source of litter.

Based on the success of its limited ban, the City of Miami Beach is considering a citywide ban on expanded polystyrene coolers and food service containers in the near future.

The City of Key Biscayne and the Village of Bal Harbour in 2014 also adopted similar bans on expanded polystyrene in municipal facilities and on municipal property. Expanded polystyrene bans are common in other parts of the United States as well, including the entire state of Maine, New York City, many cities and counties in California, Seattle, Portland (Oregon), and the District of Columbia.

Given the importance of the waterways of "the Venice of America" and the city's beaches, parks, and public rights-of-way to the city's economy, environment, and quality of life, the Sustainability Advisory Board recommends that the City Commission adopt an ordinance, which, at a minimum, restricts the sale and use of expanded polystyrene in City facilities, including by City vendors, contractors, lessees, concessionaires, facility operators, and special event permittees; and on City property

and rights-of-way, including beaches, parks, marinas, and sidewalk cafes permitted by the City. We further recommend that the City Commission consider a citywide ban on expanded polystyrene coolers and food service products.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Sustainability Advisory Board

Sources:

- Testimony at the May 18, 2015, Sustainability Advisory Board meeting by Michael DeFilippi, member of the Miami Beach Sustainability Committee.

Southeast Florida bans

- <http://www.local10.com/news/commissioners-to-give-final-vote-on-banning-styrofoam-in-miami-beach/27110242>
- <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/miami-beach/article1966696.html>
- <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/miami-beach/article1976713.html>
- <http://www.miaminewtimes.com/news/miami-beach-is-banning-styrofoam-6553878>
- <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/key-biscayne/article4241156.html>
- <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/miami-beach/article4146605.html>

Polystyrene bans across the US

- <http://www.surfrider.org/pages/polystyrene-ordinances>
- <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/nyc-bans-expanded-polystyrene-food-containers-opens-market-to-alternatives/>

**Motion**

Motion made by Mr. Cutrer, seconded by Ms. Whitfield to advance the above Communication to the City Commission. In a voice vote, the motion passed 10-0.