

**Resolution 002**

**Single-use Plastics- Education Campaign, Partnership with Plastics-Free Initiative and Voluntary Elimination of use**

**WHEREAS,** The GFWC Florida Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC FL) has historically been diligent in its efforts to preserve the beautiful environment that supports the tourism industry which is so vital to the economy of the State of Florida; and

**WHEREAS,** according to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Skip the Straw campaign, 90% of the trash in the ocean is made from plastic which pollutes most marine habitats including deep sea, coral reefs, beaches and rivers; and harms sea life with about 90% of seabirds and 30% of turtles having plastic found in their stomachs; and

**WHEREAS, single-use plastics** are in most cases not compostable or biodegradable, but instead photodegrade into smaller pieces which are then ingested by terrestrial and marine life and can eventually make its way into the human food chain and water supply generating a serious threat to our natural environment, marine and wildlife and to human health; and

**WHEREAS,** a **GFWC FL** resolution supporting reduction and elimination of single-use plastics aligns with GFWC Resolution No. 011-240 Protection of Oceans that recognizes the need for collaborative efforts to preserve, protect and enhance oceans and establishing goals concerning its environmental, ecological and socioeconomic value; and

**WHEREAS,** it can be acknowledged that many county and city businesses have taken affirmative steps to reduce or eliminate single-use, non-recyclable plastics and that these and other proactive efforts to reduce pollution by plastics are encouraged; and

**WHEREAS,** entering into a collaborative partnership with the Plastics-Free Initiative, representing multiple nonprofit organizations, including the Woman's Club of Coconut Grove, businesses and residents, throughout the State of Florida is mutually beneficial.

**RESOLVED,** that **GFWC FL** make the education of the public and businesses regarding the harm to terrestrial and marine life created by single-use plastic products in general a statewide focus area of the Environment Community Service Program.

**RESOLVED,** that GFWC FL create a collaborative partnership with the Plastics-Free Initiative and encourage individual club partnerships.

**RESOLVED,** that GFWC FL complete a review of purchasing policies. with the purpose

to limit or eliminate the use of single-use plastics for GFWC FL sponsored operations and events, except as may be necessary to meet public safety needs.

**RESOLVED**, that GFWC FL:

- Encourage all GFWC FL clubs and their members to limit or eliminate the use of single-use plastics and consider substituting alternative biodegradable items for internal and external club functions, and
- Encourage GFWC FL members to limit or eliminate personal use of single-use plastics.

**RESOLVED**, that GFWC FL support state legislation to allow local municipalities in the State of Florida to regulate their own local communities in an effort to alleviate the harms caused by single-use plastics.