

**BY:** M. of A. Solages

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim  
July 2021, as Plastic Free Month in the State of New  
York

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months that are set aside to increase awareness of serious issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim July 2021, as Plastic Free Month in the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** The goal of the Plastic Free July initiative is to educate the people of New York of the importance of reusing, reducing, and recycling plastic items; Plastic Free July has gained momentum in over 100 countries, with more than one million participants; and

**WHEREAS,** Plastic Free July continues to accentuate the importance of being green and continuing to reduce the amount of plastic we use in our lives; and

**WHEREAS,** Plastic Free July seeks to stress the staggering amounts of plastic that have been produced globally; studies have found that in the first 10 years of this century, more plastic was produced than the entire last century; across New York State, 9.37 billion single-use plastic bags are disposed of; and in New York City alone, 12.5 million dollars a year is spent on removing plastic waste; and

**WHEREAS,** Already, the ocean is filled with 165 million tons of plastic, and by 2050, plastic in the oceans will outweigh fish, predicts a report from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, in partnership with the World Economic Forum; and

**WHEREAS,** Plastic Free July seeks to take small strides at changing this global issue by starting with the people, challenging them to refuse to use single-use plastic; single-use plastic is defined as plastic shopping bags, plastic cups, straws, plastic packaging and anything that is expected only to be used once and then discarded; and

**WHEREAS,** New Yorkers can commemorate this initiative by participating in this challenge by giving up single-use plastic items for a day, a week, or the whole month; and

**WHEREAS,** In recognition of the great accomplishments of the Plastic Free July initiative, an educational and reaffirming month-long challenge is held across New York State; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body commends the Plastic Free July initiative for enlightening New Yorkers of the importance of reusing and

eliminating the usage of plastic items; and

**WHEREAS,** It is imperative that there be greater awareness of this serious environmental issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and national levels; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim July 2021, as Plastic Free Month in the State of New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; and to the events commemorating Plastic Free July throughout New York State.