

Republic of the Philippines
City of Davao
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____
Series of 2008

**A RESOLUTION COMMENDING SM-DAVAO CITY FOR ITS EFFORT IN
ADVOCATING CARE FOR MOTHER EARTH THROUGH THE USE OF
OXO-BIODEGRADABLE PLASTICS (OBPs) IN ITS DEPARTMENT
STORE AND SUPERMARKET AS AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO
GOVERNMENT AND CONSUMING PUBLIC'S CONCERN ON
ACCEPTABLE WAYS OF DISPOSING PLASTIC PRODUCTS**

WHEREAS, billions of plastic bags are used every year for almost all kinds of packaging and product wrappings and have been found even on the peaks of the Himalayan mountains;

WHEREAS, plastic bags have created many problems, foremost of which is the way they take up landfill space, where they will stay intact into the next few millennia - that's for the plastic bags that do not make their way into the garbage disposal systems while most plastics bags stray into waterways, including the ocean, where they kill marine life;

WHEREAS, plastic bags also block drainage systems as what happened to Bangladesh which banned plastic bags in 2004, identifying them as the leading cause of severe flooding;

WHEREAS, when plastic bags clog drains, they also create stagnant pools of water that become a resort for mosquitoes and other disease-causing insects – plastic bag might just have something to do with the rise of dengue here in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, like China and South Africa, certain communities in London are cracking down first on the thin bags, which seem to be more problematic in the way they block drainage systems;

WHEREAS, ironically, plastic bags were first introduced some 50 years ago as an environmental measure, specifically to save trees because paper bags were being used then and everyone was concerned that all those bags were contributing to deforestation;

WHEREAS, here on the forefront, a specific example is what SM-Davao is doing in paving the way for a doable but best effort to minimize the degradation of Mother Earth;

WHEREAS, two of its major anchors – the SM Department Store and SM Supermarket – have shifted into using biodegradable bags and the green bag respectively; in fact, the use of these biodegradable bag have just been launched three days ago;

WHEREAS, using biodegradable bags, SM Department Store advocates the care for Mother Earth – called as Oxo-Biodegradable Plastics or OBPs, these are conventional plastic as polyethylene, polypropylene and polystyrene added with a proprietary mixture that accelerates the breakdown of the chemical structure of the plastics;

WHEREAS, unlike other polyolefin products such as grocery and garbage bags, food wraps and liners for diapers which after use are discarded, the OBPs degrades into a form that is safely absorbed into the eco-system in a timeframe that is similar to that of “natural” products such as straw, Kraft paper and leaves;

WHEREAS, OBPs is not harmful to the people or the environment - its active ingredient in oxo-biodegradable products is a transition metal salt (often of cobalt) used at very low levels; cobalt is a micro-nutrient essential for life; studies have shown that composts made from oxo-biodegradable bags are not toxic to sensitive plant and animal organisms;

WHEREAS, OBPs are widely used now; end users are adopting OPBS as an effective way to offer to the customers’ environmentally responsible packaging in addressing concerns of government and the consuming public regarding the environmentally acceptable disposal of single use plastic bags;’

WHEREAS, meanwhile the green bag can last for approximately two years or more than 100 grocery trips; it is made up of material that is recyclable, non-toxic and allergy-free;

WHEREAS, it would be a good thing to commend SM-City for this laudable effort – for setting a good example for all business establishment on adopting an acceptable and alternative way of using plastic bags which are protective of Mother Earth;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that this body commend SM-DAVAO for its effort in advocating care for Mother Earth through the use of OXO-Biodegradable Plastics (OBPs) in its department store and supermarket as an effective response to government and consuming public’s concern on acceptable ways of disposing plastic products;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that copies of this resolution be furnished SM-Davao for their information.

ADOPTED, this ____ day of May 2008, Davao City, Philippines.

PILAR C. BRAGA, PhD
Proponent

May 6, 2008 Regular Session (Suspended Rules)