

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

**Councillors Felix D. Arroyo, John M. Tobin, Jerry P. McDermott, Maura A. Hennigan,
Michael P. Ross, Chuck Turner, Charles C. Yancey and Michael F. Flaherty.**

- WHEREAS:** The term “dioxin” refers to a group of chemicals that includes furans and biphenyl compounds (the most well-known dioxin being 2,3,7,8-TCDD), and dioxin is a potent human carcinogen and an endocrine-disrupting chemical affecting thyroid and steroid hormones, scientifically linked to endometriosis, immune system impairment, diabetes, neurotoxicity, birth defects, testicular atrophy and reproductive dysfunction; and
- WHEREAS:** Dioxin is a toxic waste byproduct that occurs when chlorinated products are manufactured and incinerated, and/or as the US Environmental Protection Agency has created an inventory table that lists 32 sources of dioxin in the United States, recognizing that this is the most current Environmental Protection Agency list available, but not necessarily reflective of all current industry practices with respect to dioxin; and
- WHEREAS:** Cost competitive alternatives are available for many products that create dioxin; and
- WHEREAS:** Fire fighters and other “first responders” face disproportionately high exposures to dioxin and other hazards from building fire; and
- WHEREAS:** The cities of Seattle, San Francisco, and Oakland, as well as the states of Washington, Oregon and New Hampshire, have all established laws, policies, and/or initiatives to eliminate and reduce dioxin exposure wherever possible; and
- WHEREAS:** Potential adverse effects from dioxin can be reduced through City of Boston purchasing decisions that reduce or eliminate products that create or release dioxin and utilize existing less toxic and cost-competitive alternatives for many products; **Therefore be it**
- RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council encourages elimination of dioxin emissions through its procurement practices wherever possible and urges the Purchasing Department and other appropriate Departments of the City of Boston (i) to develop and apply criteria that differentiate between products that release dioxin during manufacture and/or disposal and those products that do not and (ii) to examine the dioxin reduction programs in the cities of San Francisco and Seattle; and BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council shall cooperate with the Purchasing Department, other appropriate City Departments, and other interested persons to develop an Implementation Plan with reduction targets for dioxin pollution. Within one year of passage of this Resolution, the City will report on their progress and will achieve an Implementation Plan for the purchase of products on behalf of City departments, offices, and agencies by six months thereafter. The Implementation Plan shall include identification and analysis of City uses of dioxin-generating products, and purchasing shall be prioritized based on dioxin-reduction opportunity, technical and economic feasibility, and protection of human health and the environment. Generally, the use of an alternative product should be considered economically feasible if its cost, including the cost of conversion, is equivalent to the full costs of the dioxin-generating product.

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Passed Unanimously (13-0) by vote of the Boston City Council on October 29, 2003