

CITY OF LOWELL
PETITION

TO THE
CITY COUNCIL

Sana Singh
Reg City Council
John City Retirement,
spending on place
city, expenses and
ways

In City Council

January 7, 2025

Read and

Clerk



PETITION: Ban Lowell restaurants from giving out plastic cutlery, containers, bags

From Sara Singh <ssinghwalker@gmail.com>

Date Mon 12/16/2024 4:21 PM

To Geary, Michael <mgeary@lowellma.gov>

Good day,

My name is Sara Singh. I work as a Principal Environmental Planner and I'm a former MVP Action Grant Project Manager. I am speaking to you as a Lowell resident (I live at 353 Pawtucket Street) and environmental professional. Please add this petition to the agenda for the 1st City Council meeting in January.

I just had yet another frustrating experience with a Lowell restaurant (Wee Thai). As always, I specifically asked them to not give me plastic cutlery. Ignored, again. **I have a drawer full of plastic cutlery -- all of it was automatically given to me by local restaurants, as if I don't already have spoons, forks, knives and napkins at home.** Here are some images that illustrate the cumulative result of these unwanted "gifts". Even though my household recycles plastic, **the vast majority of plastic waste ends up in landfills.**

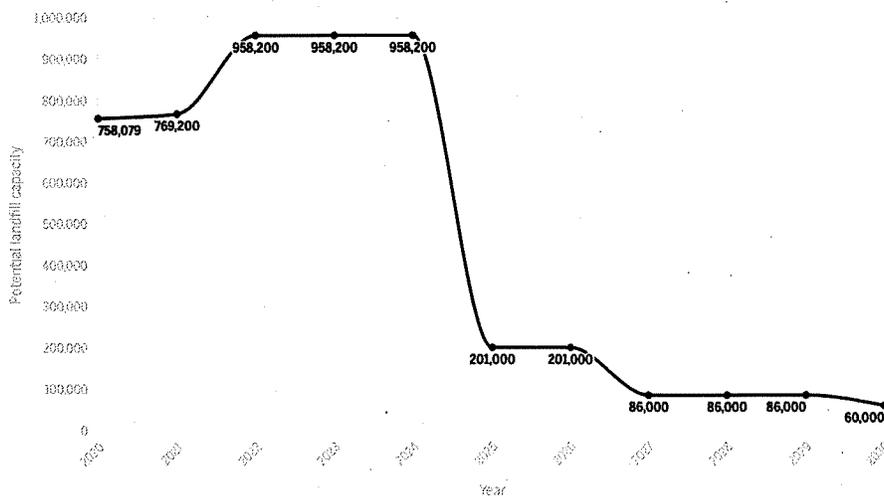
Avoiding plastic > reusing plastic > recycling plastic > throwing away plastic

Exhibit A: A landfill, similar to the one in Lowell

image.png

Exhibit B: The landfill trend

Projected Landfill Capacity in Massachusetts



Source: Department of environmental protection

Exhibit C: North Atlantic garbage patch



Please, I urge you to get strict with local restaurants. They need to stop: it is a burden on the customer and a plague on our small corner of the Earth. We are in the middle of a severe biodiversity and plastic proliferation crisis. Please require them to switch to compostable/biodegradable takeout containers, cutlery, & bags -- and stop giving out anything that was not asked for. Some of them even give out plastics for customers dining in! Fine them if they do not comply. Switching to sustainable materials is neither difficult nor expensive. If they cannot operate sustainably, they should not be in business.

Sara Singh