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RESOLUTION SUPPORTING B26-0058 - RECYCLING REFUND AND LITTER REDUCTION AMENDMENT ACT OF 2025

Sponsors: Commissioner Cava and Commissioner Marencic

- WHEREAS: The District of Columbia is inundated with beverage container pollution which poses risks to human health and the climate. This pollution washes into our rivers and streams, including Rock Creek (which receives all the stormwater drainage of ANC 4D), and eventually drains to the Potomac River, and
- WHEREAS: More than 50 percent of the trash, by weight, collected in Anacostia River trash traps is plastic bottles, and
- WHEREAS: More than 617 million covered beverage containers are sold in the District each year, but less than one quarter, or 152 million, of these containers, are recycled. Almost 464.5 million beverage containers sold annually in the District are not recycled, and
- WHEREAS: These 464.5 million un-recycled beverage containers either get sent to methane-belching landfills, contributing to global warming, the toxin-emitting incinerator in Lorton, Virginia, or wind up in the environment as litter. Once cleaned out of our parks, neighborhoods and waterways, they are too contaminated to be recycled. Instead, they are sent to be landfilled or incinerated. Both options pose their own environmental and health damage. In addition, plastic bottles release microplastics into the environment and may contain toxic chemicals, such as PFAS, and
- WHEREAS: Of the 617 million beverage containers sold annually in the District, 345 million (or over 55 percent) are plastic bottles; more than 180 million (nearly 30 percent)

are aluminum cans and nearly 92 million (almost 15%) are glass bottles. The District's beverage container litter crisis concerns all three container materials. A solution addressing only plastic bottles is not sufficient because it would leave 45 percent of beverage containers still polluting the District, and

WHEREAS: More than 255 million of the covered bottles and cans sold in the District annually are used to sell water. Considering the District still has more than 42,000 lead service lines, many District residents do not trust their tap water and buy bottled water instead. This issue can also be mitigated through a strong, equitable bottle bill, and

WHEREAS: A strong, equitable bottle bill for the District would establish a ten-cent deposit on all beverage containers sold in the District (with the exception of dairy and dairy-alternative beverages). Beverage container deposits incentivize people to return containers for the deposit refund, and

WHEREAS: Beverage container deposit-return laws, commonly called "bottle bills" are proven to cut trash and increase recycling rates because of the incentivizing deposit. They are an effective waste diversion measure, and

WHEREAS: A strong, equitable bottle bill will enable deposit refunds to be directed to a non-profit organization's bottle bill account so that qualified non-profit organizations, like churches or community sports teams, can mobilize bottle drives as a fund-raising mechanism. Families can also establish bottle bill accounts as a college-education savings fund, and

WHEREAS: Equitable bottle bills require ease of return to stores as well as other convenient locations in food desert neighborhoods. It's important that no one has to travel a long distance to get their deposit refunded, and Although deposits incentivize most people to return their beverage container, not everyone will seek a deposit return. Tourists, for example, may not return their bottles and cans for a deposit refund. This will leave a pool of unclaimed deposits. A strong, equitable bottle bill for the District would allocate unclaimed deposits to a variety of community programs such as environmental programs and programs to help low-income residents living in households with lead service lines to purchase quality lead filters. Unclaimed deposits would also provide grants to operators of convenient container return locations in neighborhoods with food deserts, and

WHEREAS: The beverage industry has known for decades that curbside recycling is not an adequate solution to the beverage container pollution crisis and that bottle bills are effective. Beverage companies oppose bottle bills because they require these

companies to take responsibility for the litter, dumping and environmental harm they cause, and

WHEREAS: The beverage container pollution crisis demands a change to the status quo established by beverage companies, and

WHEREAS: ANC 4D continually sees plastic bottles along its borders, roadways, and residential streets as a public health and safety challenge that needs to be addressed along with robust community engagement, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ANC 4D endorses and requests prompt and robust hearings on B26-0058 - RECYCLING REFUND AND LITTER REDUCTION AMENDMENT ACT OF 2025, introduced by Councilmember Nadeau on January 15, 2025, and co-sponsored by Councilmembers Allen, Frumin, Bonds, R. White, Felder, Pinto, Lewis George, Henderson, Parker, and Chairman Mendelson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That Commissioner Eliza Cava (4D04) is hereby authorized to represent the commission in all matters relating to this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That, in the event the designated representative Commissioner(s) cannot carry out their representative duties for any reason, the Commission authorizes the Chair to designate another Commissioner to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this resolution.

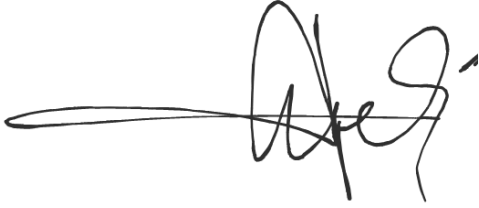
This resolution came before ANC 4D at a duly noticed public meeting on February 19, 2025. ANC 4D is composed of 8 Commissioners, so that 5 Commissioners constitute a quorum.

With 8 Commissioners present, ANC 4D voted 8 Yea, 0 Nay, and 0 Abstain. The resolution is hereby adopted as resolution number 4D-2025-01.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. Allen', written in a cursive style.

Jenn Kauffman
Chair, ANC 4D

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stoyan', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Stoyan Dimitrov
Secretary, ANC 4D