

RESOLUTION NO. 11-1517

A RESOLUTION about the potential hazards to animals and the environment from non-biodegradable balloons.

WHEREAS, Centennial Elementary Educator Kathleen Hammer and students from her Fourth and Fifth grade class requested the City Council consider the harmful effects of non-biodegradable balloons; and

WHEREAS, the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) reports that balloons can kill marine animals by entanglement or ingestion; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported by inland farmers that animals such as sheep, goats, and cows may also attempt to eat balloons that land on their property; and

WHEREAS, non-biodegradable mylar balloons may pollute and litter waterways, farms, city streets, and any other location as they fall from the sky; and

WHEREAS, balloons may also have other non-biodegradable pieces such as plastic clips and string that should be replaced by biodegradable pieces; and

WHEREAS, this is an issue that Olympia can serve as a catalyst for by encouraging other jurisdictions, State government, and State agencies to address; and

WHEREAS, Olympia is a City where its citizens value the environment and safety of all life.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Olympia City Council directs City staff to work with and/or contact community agencies and local and state government in an effort to raise awareness and encourage other to adopt regulations prohibiting the launching of non-biodegradable balloons in Washington State.

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this 17th day of June 2003.

Mary Ruitel
MAYOR PRO TEM

ATTEST:

Janeke Anderson Kirkemo
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

B. C. Stebbins
CITY ATTORNEY