Communication from Public

Name: Eric Sherman
Date Submitted: 12/10/2025 09:25 AM
Council File No: 21-0064
Comments for Public Posting: My name is Eric Sherman, and I am strongly urging the Council to pass the ordinance banning single-use printer cartridges. I want to speak not only as someone who works in this industry, but as a regular consumer, because that is how I first came face-to-face with this problem. Like many Angelenos, I'm always looking for a more affordable option for printer ink. Name-brand cartridges are extremely expensive, and aftermarket options online look like an easy way to save money. Unfortunately, I learned the hard way what so many consumers discover too late. I bought a generic cartridge online that seemed like a great deal. But the ink inside it destroyed the printhead in my printer. I ended up throwing away the unused cartridges and the printer. I lost money, and I contributed to completely unnecessary plastic waste, all because of a single-use product with zero oversight and zero accountability to the consumer or the environment. What I learned afterward shocked me: There is virtually no regulation over what goes into many of these cartridges. Offshore sellers operate on a churn-and-burn model, flooding the U.S. market with cheap single-use cartridges until problems pile up, then shutting down and reappearing under a new name. Same product, same problems, no consequences. Meanwhile, the waste, the cost, and the environmental burden land right here in our communities. And this problem goes far beyond broken printers. Before the rise of single-use cartridges, we actually had systems that worked. I spent years working with Staples on their national ink and toner recycling program which generated millions of dollars back into education initiatives across the country. Recycling fundraisers succeeded because original equipment manufacturer cartridges had value. They could be collected, reused, and remanufactured. Today, those programs no longer exist. Why? Because single-use, non-remanufacturable cartridges have wiped out the value of returns. Schools, nonprofits, and collection programs can no longer earn anything by recycling them. When cartridges lose value, the recycling system collapses, and all of that material becomes waste. This is why I fully support this ordinance. This isn't just about printers, it's about consumer protection, environmental responsibility, and economic fairness. If Los Angeles wants to be a sustainable city, and the Council has repeatedly affirmed that goal, then we cannot allow disposable

plastic products to flood our market without any reuse, recycling, or reclamation pathway. Single-use printer cartridges are exactly the kind of outdated, unnecessary waste we should be eliminating. And here's the key point: We already have a viable, high-quality U.S. remanufacturing industry capable of reusing OEM cartridges, keeping them out of landfills, creating green jobs, and producing reliable products for consumers. This is a circular economy solution that actually works. Passing this ordinance will: • Save consumers money • Keep dollars in our local and national economy instead of sending them overseas • Create and protect green manufacturing jobs • Reduce the plastic burden on our landfills and city services • Protect taxpayers from footing the bill for waste created by irresponsible producers Doing nothing leaves consumers, and the City of Los Angeles to pay for the environmental and financial fallout, while offshore manufacturers continue to profit from wasteful, low-quality, single-use products. Los Angeles has an opportunity to lead. The Council has already passed a resolution to support state and federal bans and adopted LA Sanitation's comprehensive plastic reduction plan, which recommends this exact measure. Now is the time to act, not just endorse sustainability but demonstrate it. Please pass this ordinance. Protect consumers. Support local jobs. Reduce plastic waste. And show the rest of the country what real leadership looks like. Thank you, Eric Sherman

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