

**A Resolution in Support of Banning Plastic Litter for Special Occasions
at the University of Alabama at Birmingham**

1 WHEREAS the University of Alabama at Birmingham Undergraduate Student Government
2 Association has the honor and responsibility of representing the entire undergraduate student
3 voice; and
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5 WHEREAS it is the duty of the USGA to lead the undergraduate student body towards positive
6 and relevant changes; and
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8 WHEREAS the use of small plastic for special occasions on UAB’s campus directly pollutes the
9 environment and disturbs nearby ecosystems; and
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11 WHEREAS special occasions (including but not limited to UAB Homecoming, graduation
12 photoshoots, greek events, and other events) using confetti, glitter, and other related plastic litter
13 are common and deeply rooted in our traditions; and
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15 WHEREAS the plastic litter is often swept into nearby storm drains directly routed to the local
16 bodies of water and streams; and
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18 WHEREAS these plastic bits are broken down into microplastics that release toxic chemicals,
19 causing hormonal imbalances, digestive harms, infertility, and cancers in the ecosystem’s
20 wildlife; and[1]
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22 WHEREAS National Geographic has referred to this environmental epidemic in bodies of water
23 as “alarming” citing a study done on the Tennessee River; and[2]
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25 WHEREAS other college campuses such as Texas State University have banned confetti and
26 balloons at commencement [3] and local cities such as Mobile, Alabama have banned the sale,
27 use, and possession of plastic confetti [4]
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29 WHEREAS the University of Alabama at Birmingham is committed to including sustainability
30 in every facet of our enterprise—education, research, patient care, economic development, and
31 service—and banning plastic confetti, glitter, and other related plastic litter is an effective way to
32 put into practice the principles of environmental sustainability and social justice; and
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[1] Gallo F, Fossi C, Weber R, et al. Marine litter plastics and microplastics and their toxic chemicals components: the need for urgent preventive measures. *Environ Sci Eur.* 2018;30(1):13. doi:10.1186/s12302-018-0139-z

[2] Gibbens, S. 'Alarming' level of microplastics found in a major U.S. river. *National Geographic.* October 10, 2018. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com>. Accessed January 13, 2020.

[3] [Prohibited and Allowable Items : Commencement](#)

[4] [Mobile bans plastic confetti | News | fox10tv.com](#)

34 WHEREAS by requiring more environmentally-friendly alternatives for special occasions, UAB
35 will demonstrate a commitment to sustainability; and

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37 WHEREAS by requiring more environmentally-friendly alternatives for special occasions, UAB
38 will more effectively educate the campus community about the harms of plastic litter for special
39 occasions; and

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41 WHEREAS by requiring more environmentally-friendly alternatives for special occasions, UAB
42 will inspire other institutions and organizations to ban plastic litter for special occasions; and

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44 WHEREAS by requiring more environmentally-friendly alternatives for special occasions, UAB
45 will enhance its image as a leader in sustainability and social justice issues.

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47 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the UAB USGA, representing the undergraduate
48 student population encourages the UAB Office of Student Involvement and Leadership, the
49 National Alumni Society, the University Events Department, any other relevant UAB groups to
50 be better stewards of the environment by restricting the use of plastic confetti, glitter, and other
51 forms of plastic litter. Doing so would include but not be limited to:

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53 Requiring that any department, college, team, registered student organization, or greek
54 life chapter under their direct supervision include in their rules for UAB Homecoming,
55 celebrations, or special occasions that the use of plastic confetti, glitter, and all other
56 forms of single-use plastic litter for special occasions is prohibited;

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58 Encouraging organization members to use paper or biodegradable celebratory materials
59 as an alternative;

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61 Advising that it is the group's responsibility to properly clean up after the celebration or
62 occasion.

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64 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UAB USGA will not fund the use of
65 plastic litter for any registered student organization sponsored event. Any registered student
66 organization that uses USGA funding to purchase and use plastic litter will be disqualified from
67 seeking USGA funding in the future.

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