

**OPINION** EDITORIAL

## Another foamy excuse

By Post Editorial Board

January 8, 2015 | 7:34pm



Photo: AP

Nanny Bloomberg, move over for Nanny de Blasio.

Mayor de Blasio has just targeted an old Bloomberg bogeyman: styrofoam. By July 1, single-use polystyrene foam products — plates, cups, bowls, takeout containers and so forth — will be banned. By next year, the city will impose fines.

Mayor Bill claims “these products cause real environmental harm and have no place in New York City. We have better options, better alternatives, and if more cities across the country follow our lead and institute similar bans, those alternatives will soon become more plentiful and will cost less.”

But why? Crain’s reports the city admitted to Michael Westerfield of Dart Container Corp. last year that foam products could indeed be recycled, contrary to myth.

Sixty-five cities in California — with a combined New York City-equivalent population of 8 million — manage to recycle polystyrene foam. Closer to home, Yonkers recycles polystyrene.

The alternatives to recycling are also more expensive. According to a 2013 study by MB Public Affairs, dumping styrofoam “effectively [means] doubling the cost to businesses.”

Larger chains might be able to absorb the higher costs, but smaller ones? Food carts? Bodegas?

True, nonprofits and businesses with less than \$500,000 a year in revenue “could” be declared exempt — but they’ll first have to prove the regulation creates financial hardship. More hassle.

All in all, what we have here is another “progressive” idea that in real life will end up making life more expensive for the little guys the mayor claims to champion.

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