
The City of Traverse City

Office of the City Clerk

GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
400 Boardman Avenue
Traverse City, MI 49684
(231) 922-4480
tcclerk@traversecitymi.gov



PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: Use of Microbeads in Personal Care Products

Primary

**Contacts: Mayor Michael Estes – mestes@traversecitymi.gov (231) 929-0827
Mayor Pro Tem Jim Carruthers – jccarruthers@gmail.com (231) 922-7768**

Issued: October 27, 2014

On October 20, 2014, the City Commission for the City of Traverse City unanimously adopted a resolution urging Traverse City residents to avoid the use of personal care products containing microbeads; the resolution was proposed by Mayor Pro Tem Jim Carruthers.

Microbeads are small non-decomposable plastic particles used as an abrasive in many common every day products, such as facial scrubs and soaps. Most microbeads are so small that they pass through wastewater treatment plants and are eventually discharged into the Great Lakes where they persist and collect toxic chemical pollutants on their surface. Often times, microbeads are mistaken as food by fish and other wildlife, contaminating their bodies, passing that contamination onto people who consume fish and other wildlife.

Traverse City Mayor Pro Tem Jim Carruthers indicated, “We all care about our environment – and many of our friends and neighbors are unaware of the tremendous harm small plastic particles, known as microbeads, cause to our environment. These microbeads can be found in many personal care products. We should all make sure that when we purchase personal care products, they do not contain microbeads.”

Traverse City Mayor Michael Estes sent the resolution adopted by the City Commission to Michigan Governor Rick Snyder and key members of the Michigan legislature who are sponsoring legislation to prohibit the manufacture of personal care products containing microbeads. Mayor Estes wrote, “Please act swiftly – and decisively – by supporting legislation that would prohibit the manufacture of personal care products containing microbeads.” Mayor Estes encourages all residents of Traverse City to take this seriously, “we all treasure our beautiful natural resources – and those resources can be protected when we make the choice at the checkout – to not purchase personal care products containing microbeads.”

##