



Fw: Plastic Bag Ban (Council Agenda Item #23 / 11-0711)

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07/19/2011 02:24 PM

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----- Forwarded by Irma Heinrichs/CC/CLB on 07/19/2011 02:23 PM -----

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 Date: 07/19/2011 11:51 AM
 Subject: Re: Plastic Bag Ban (Council Agenda Item #23 / 11-0711)

Esteemed Councilmembers,

During your deliberations of this agenda item, please consider offering and/or supporting a substitute motion to rescind, in its entirety, the plastic bag ban which the Council previously enacted.

As you have now seen, there exist a considerable number of challenges with this ban as it is currently written. This ban will have notably adverse impacts upon many of the voters that you represent as well as many of the legitimate business enterprises to which this ban applies.

This ban makes a considerable number of assumptions that have no foundation in objectively verifiable fact, not the least of which is the very term "single use." The truth is that many people who use these bags do, indeed, re-use them (and for many valid and practical purposes) until they are no longer **of** use and then they properly recycle them.

Since the bags are a lawful product with many lawful uses and re-uses, it seems to me that as a community we should be focusing upon encreasing public education concerning re-use options and recycling programs, while concurrently increasing our enforcement of littering and anti-dumping statutes, rather than presuming to prohibit residents from direct access to these products.

For several years now, my family has opted for heavy duty bags made of jute fiber (completely bio-degradable) for use when grocery shopping. We have made that choice because we should retain the right and the freedom to **make** that choice. Others should likewise retain the right and the freedom to make their **own** choices in this area, and not have their choices artificially limited by government.

If the true challenge is littering, then we should take more affirmative steps to address that particular public offense. This ban does not do so.

For a law to have any practical meaning, it must be both enforceable and enforced. What city department and which city employees will be responsible for enforcing this ban and what will it cost us to do so? Do we truly want to add yet another layer of regulation onto our already severely regulated business enterprises? Do we really want to add still more financial burdens to the average taxpayer than they already labor beneath?

Further, I strongly question the constitutionality of any law that presumes to *require* that any private enterprise must charge any sort of operational fee to its customers. This, to me, seems to denote an altogether inappropriate intrusion of government into the marketplace.

For these reason and many others, I strongly and respectfully encourage you to rescind this plastic bag ban altogether and, instead, turn your efforts toward increasing public education and enforcement of existing related laws.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Very Respectfully,
Mr. John B. Greet
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