

RES 16-013

Wilmington, Delaware
February 18, 2016

#4168

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Gregory

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WHEREAS, it is estimated that citizens uses hundreds of plastic carryout bags annually, many of which add to the litter and blight affecting Wilmington's communities, streets, parks, woodlands, and waterways and can also be seen hanging from City trees and bushes; and

WHEREAS, plastic bags clog Wilmington's storm water management systems resulting in increased costs for cleanup and disposal, are the second-most prevalent item collected during Delaware's coastal and river cleanup events, and adversely affect wildlife, including fish, dolphin, whales, sea turtles and birds who perish when they mistakenly eat or become entangled in plastic bags; and

WHEREAS, less than ten percent of plastic carryout bags, which do not biodegrade but slowly photodegrade and end up as small toxic particles in our environment, are estimated to be recycled or reused, resulting in many tons of plastic bags that are disposed of in the local landfill, clog the City's storm drains, or are mixed inappropriately with recyclables causing processing delays and increased costs at the DSWA Materials Recycling Facility; and

WHEREAS, plastic bags which are ingested by marine animals and fish and become part of the food chain upon which humans rely, causing increasing concern as plastic's role as an endocrine disrupter and other health concerns become more documented in scientific studies; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that both retailers and communities can derive significant financial and environmental benefits when single-use plastic bags are no longer distributed free of charge to consumers, instead requiring consumers to pay for bags only when they are needed.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that the City Council hereby congratulates the 148th General Assembly for addressing concerns related to use of plastic bags, for recognizing that the hidden damage to the environment and to wildlife from the use of free bags supplied by retailers is far greater than what may appear on the surface, and for supporting the passage of House Bill 202 which will result in a cleaner City, reduced related health concerns, reduced litter and blight and reduced expenditures to counter the damage caused by plastic bags.

Passed by City Council,
February 18, 2016

Attest: Maribel Seijo
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 18
day of February, 2016.

HWG
Assistant City Solicitor