

**CITY OF COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND
ACTION ITEM COVER REPORT**

AGENDA ITEM: 23-O-01



Prepared By: Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney, and
Robert Marsili, Director of Public Works

Meeting Date: 02/14/2023

Presented By: Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney, and
Robert Marsili, Director of Public Works

Proposed Consent: N/A

Originating Department: City Attorney, Department of Public Works

Action Requested: Hold a public hearing and consider adoption of ordinance 23-O-01, the "Better Bag Bill," amending Chapter 129 by adding "provisions which prohibit retail establishments from providing single-use plastic carryout bags to customers at the point of sale and by requiring that retail establishments charge a fee of at least \$.10 per bag for provision of paper carryout bag and reusable carryout bag.

Strategic Plan Objective: Objective 3: Preserve and enrich our environment and natural beauty to attract people and sustain our City's future.

Background/Justification:

The City is committed to a sustainable environment and active stewardship of our natural resources. The City's long-term planning contributes to the well-being and prosperity of our community.

The Committee for a Better Environment presented the idea of a "Better Bag Bill" to the City Council on November 15, 2022, with additional discussion on January 10, 2023. The Council response was favorable.

The City Attorney drafted Ordinance 23-O-01 which was introduced on January 31, 2023. The Public Hearing is scheduled for February 14. Council may adopt the ordinance, with or without amendments, following the Public Hearing.

The effective date of the ordinance has been set for September 1, 2023.

Fiscal Impact:

Funding is proposed for reusable bags for city residents in the FY24 budget.

- Code Enforcement will be an important component of a successful program.
- Communications will be asked to work with the CBE to create and publicize a public education plan which could include a mailing to all City businesses that would be impacted and to educate residents about the change.
- The City will invest in City-branded reusable bags to give away at City events.

Council Options:

1. Hold a public hearing and consider adoption of Ordinance 23-O-01 with a start date of September 1, 2023.
2. Hold a public hearing and consider adoption of Ordinance 23-O-01, with amendments.
3. Do not take any action at this time.

Staff Recommendation:

Option #1

Recommended Motion:

I move to adopt Ordinance 23-O-01, the “Better Bag Bill,” amending Chapter 129 by adding provisions which prohibit retail establishments from providing single-use plastic carryout bags to customers at the point of sale and by requiring that retail establishments charge a fee of at least \$.10 per bag for provision of paper carryout bag and reusable carryout bag, with an effective date of September 1, 2023.

Attachments:

1. Ordinance 23-O-01