

RESOLUTION URGING THE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR TO ENACT A LAW BANNING SINGLE USE PLASTIC AND PAPER BAGS

WHEREAS, it is estimated that a person will use five hundred single use disposable bags per year; and

WHEREAS, over four billion single use bags are used annually in the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, single use plastic bags pose an environmental hazard to the local, state, and global environment as they are often improperly discarded and end up in waterways or on land where they are mistaken as food by marine and land-based animals; and

WHEREAS, single use plastic bags have a low percentage rate of recycling; and

WHEREAS, single use paper bags also have a negative environmental impact and are a contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change; and

WHEREAS, paper bag manufacturing is a resource-intensive process whose overall carbon footprint is comparable to, or more significant than, plastic bag manufacturing when one factors in water and air pollutants, energy use, deforestation, diesel emissions and solid waste disposal; and

WHEREAS, due to the weight and volume of single use paper bags, it requires seven times the resources to transport paper bags as compared to plastic bags; and

WHEREAS, paper bags do not decompose in landfills and it takes a significant amount of energy and chemicals to properly recycle paper bags; and

WHEREAS, some municipal governments across New Jersey are enacting competing ordinances to address consumer reliance on single use plastic and paper bags; and

WHEREAS, this municipal action has created a patchwork of regulations across the state which has made it difficult and confusing for consumers to shop and businesses to operate in multiple municipalities; and

WHEREAS, other states including California, New York, and Connecticut have adopted laws regarding the regulation of plastic and paper bags;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the City of Clifton:

1. That it does hereby support the enactment of state legislation to create a law across all municipalities that bans single use plastic and paper bags, with certain uniform exemptions, thereby encouraging consumers to utilize reusable bags.
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Office of the Governor, the President of the New Jersey State Senate, the Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly, and our State Legislators.

ADOPTED: November 6, 2019

James Anzaldi

James Anzaldi, Mayor

ATTEST:

Nancy Ferrigno
Nancy Ferrigno, City Clerk

CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY

Nancy Ferrigno
Nancy Ferrigno, City Clerk