

RESOLUTION NO. 20110804-021

WHEREAS, on April 19, 2007, the City Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 20070419-026 directing the City Manager to evaluate and recommend strategies for limiting the use of non-compostable plastic bags by stores located in the City, and promoting the use of compostable plastic bags, recyclable paper bags, or reusable checkout bags; and

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2008, the City Council approved Resolution No. 20080410-048 adopting a voluntary plastic bag reduction plan in lieu of an ordinance banning plastic bags, to reduce by half the number of plastic bags entering the waste stream within 18 months; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Texas Retailers Association participated in the voluntary plastic bag reduction plan; and

WHEREAS, data collected at the conclusion of the pilot program showed that the voluntary plan reduced the use of plastic bags by approximately 20%, failing to reach the goal of a 50% reduction; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2010, Council unanimously passed Resolution No. 20100624-079 directing the City Manager to determine the cost to Austin taxpayers of processing plastic bags in the waste stream, resulting in a January 2011 report providing a cost estimate of approximately \$850,000 annually, not including environmental costs; and

WHEREAS, plastic shopping bags present a unique and pernicious problem for citizens, the environment, and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the successful reduction of plastic bags entering the city's solid waste stream, along with the integration of reusable bags and the increase in recycling and composting of plastic bags, will help the city achieve its goal of "Zero Waste" by the year 2040; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

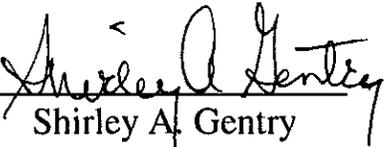
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to draft, process, and bring forward for Council consideration by November, 2011, an ordinance providing a comprehensive phase-out of single-use plastic bags offered at retail check-outs within the city limits of Austin.

The City Manager is further directed to engage retail stakeholders and concerned citizens in the development of the draft ordinance.

ADOPTED: August 4, 2011

ATTEST:


Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk