



# **Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance**

**ZWAC Briefing – 6/13/12**

## **Single-Use Carryout Bags**

### **Austin City Council Resolution**

#### **August 4, 2011**

Directs staff to develop a city ordinance providing a “comprehensive phase-out of single-use plastic bags offered at retail checkouts”

#### **March 2, 2012**

Council Adopts regulations of carryout bags within the City limits, offering three bag options.

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## Single-Use Carryout Bags

### Timeline

- 3/2/12 - Council Public Hearing & Adoption
- March, April, May – Research & Development of Implementation Strategies, discussions with bag manufacturers, other cities, and local retailers.
- June – Development of Director Rules
- June – Began Outreach and Education

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## Single-Use Carryout Bags

### Timeline

- July – RFP Release for Media Campaign
- July – Post Director Rules for public comment
- August – Director Rules adopted
- August – Council considers media campaign RFP
- December – Public Media Campaign rolls out
- March 1, 2013 – Full implementation of Ordinance

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## **Single-Use Carryout Bags**

### **Ordinance Purpose**

Replaces Single-Use Carryout Bags  
with defined Reusable/Recyclable Bags

### **Permitted Reusable Bags**

Reusable Carry-out Bags – 3 choices

- Cloth, washable fabric, or other durable materials
- Recyclable paper (with director standards)
- Recyclable plastic, 4 mil thickness & handle

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## **Single-Use Carryout Bags**

### **Director Rules**

- Paper Bag Definition – Recycled Content & FSC
- Plastic Bag Definition – 4 mil & handle
- Alternative Compliance – “Walk Test”
- Retailer Parking Lot Signage Requirements
- Customer Education at Point of Purchase
- Prohibits carryout bags at all City facilities
- Cease distribution of Single-Use Carryout Bags by March 1, 2013

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## Single-Use Carryout Bags

### Hardship Variance

- Retailers may petition for Hardship Variance
- Hardship Emergency Bag Option
  - “Disposable Bag Fee” per transaction
  - \$1.00 per transaction through Dec 31, 2013
  - \$1.50 per transaction through Dec 31, 2014
  - Fee revenue utilized for reusable bag promotions
  - Reports to City
  - Re-evaluate Emergency Bag Option late 2014

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## Single-Use Carryout Bags

