



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

ZERO WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Recommendation Number: (20180808-5A): Resolution Regarding the Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban

WHEREAS, the Zero Waste Advisory Commission (ZWAC) reviews, evaluates, and makes recommendations to the City Council regarding City policies concerning Zero Waste goals; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin implemented a Single-Use Bag Ordinance (SUBO) restricting the use of single-use plastic bags in an effort to reduce plastic waste and reach City Zero Waste goals effective March 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Texas State Supreme Court ruled in Laredo Merchants Association v. The City of Laredo that a state law on solid waste disposal pre-empted local ordinances restricting plastic bags in July 2018; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is thus no longer able to enforce the Single Use Bag Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the original zero waste goals that justify the SUBO are still in effect, among them reducing single-use bag litter, reducing overall plastic waste in landfill, reducing carbon impacts of single-use plastics, reducing ecosystem impacts of single-use plastics, and reducing plastic impact on watersheds; and

WHEREAS, Austin retailers and customers impacted by SUBO have already adapted behaviors and practices that effectively achieve the aforementioned goals; and

WHEREAS, the SUBO will continue to serve as a model for other communities to adopt;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved That the Zero Waste Advisory Commission of the City of Austin:

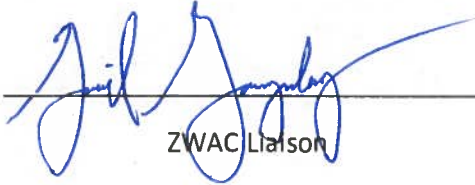
Recommends that ARR Staff and ZWAC work to identify opportunities for retailer and community education to continue voluntary restriction of single-use bags.

Further recommends that Council work with local retailers to encourage voluntary continuation of practices that restrict single-use bags in keeping with city Zero Waste goals.

Further recommends that ARR and Council publicly recognize retailers who voluntarily continue to restrict single-use bags for their contributions to Zero Waste goals.

Date of Approval: August 8, 2018

Record of Vote: 8-1 with Commissioner Howry as a 'No' vote. Commissioners Bones and Rojo were absent.

Attest:  _____
ZWAC Liaison