

## SANTA MONICA

# SINGLE-USE CARRYOUT BAG ORDINANCE

**SUMMARY:** The City of Santa Monica's Single-use Carryout Bag Ordinance prohibits all retail establishments in Santa Monica from providing single-use plastic carryout bags to customers at the point of sale. "Single-use Plastic Carryout Bag" is defined as any bag that is less than two and one-quarter mils thick and is made predominately of plastic derived from petroleum or from bio-based sources, such as corn or other plant sources.



Grocery stores, convenience stores, mini-marts, liquor stores and pharmacies are permitted to provide customers with paper bags made from at least 40% post-consumer recycled content. These types of retailers are required to charge customers at least ten cents per paper bag.

Revenues generated by sales of paper bags remain with the affected stores. The Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance does not prohibit the distribution of plastic "product bags," such as those distributed within a grocery store for bagging produce.

Restaurants and other food vendors may provide single-use plastic carryout bags to customers only for the transportation of take-out food and liquids intended for consumption off of the food provider's premises. This exemption is included as a public health safeguard based on input from restaurant owners who expressed concern that some hot and liquid foods could leak from take-out containers and potentially cause paper bags to weaken and fail.

Other types of retail stores such as department stores, clothing stores, and stores that sell durable goods are not prohibited from distributing paper bags to customers for free because these types of stores do not typically distribute single-use plastic carryout bags to customers in large volumes as compared to grocery stores, convenience stores, mini-marts, liquor stores and pharmacies.

The intent of the ordinance is to reduce the environmental impacts related to single-use plastic and paper carryout bags, and promote a shift toward the use of reusable bags.

Although not included in the proposed ordinance, as part of the Single-use Carryout Bag Ordinance, the City has pledged to purchase and distribute at no cost approximately 25,000 reusable bags to the public.

### For further information please contact:

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