

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-12

**ORDINANCE AMENDING FOREST GROVE CITY CODE CHAPTER 7
BY ADDING NEW CODE SECTIONS 7.900 TO 7.930 PROHIBITING
THE USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC CARRYOUT BAGS**

WHEREAS, there has been a proliferation of plastic bags that has resulted in environmental degradation;

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest that the City of Forest Grove minimize the proliferation of plastic bags from entering into the City's waste stream through the use of recyclable bags;

WHEREAS, the Sustainability Commission in 2015 developed a proposed amendment to ban plastic carryout bags;

WHEREAS, the Sustainability Commission conducted substantial outreach on the subject throughout much of 2015 including, but not limited to, holding a public hearing on the matter at a Sustainability Commission meeting on March 26 and a forum on September 2;

WHEREAS, the City Council held a duly-noticed Public Hearing on May 23 and continued the hearing on June 13, 2016, on the proposed ordinance.

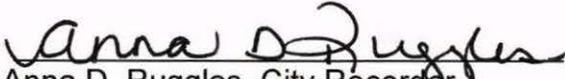
NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF FOREST GROVE ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Forest Grove City Council hereby amends Forest Grove City Code Chapter 7 by adding new Code Sections 7.900 to 7.930 prohibiting the use of "Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bags", as set forth in the attached Exhibit A.

Section 2. This ordinance shall be effective 30 days following its enactment by the City Council.

PRESENTED AND PASSED the first reading the 23rd day of May, 2016.

PASSED the second reading this 13th day of June, 2016.


Anna D. Ruggles, City Recorder

APPROVED by the Mayor this 13th day of June, 2016.

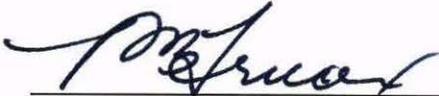

Peter B. Truax, Mayor

Exhibit A

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-12

CHAPTER 7 – BUSINESS

CITY OF FOREST GROVE CODE AMENDMENTS

NEW CODE SECTIONS 7.900 – 7.930

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC CARRYOUT BAGS

7.900

Purpose.

The purpose of Code Sections 7.900 to 7.930 is to prohibit use of single-use plastic carryout bags at retail establishments, any city facilities, city-managed concessions, city sponsored events and/or city permitted events, and allows retailers to charge up to five cents for a paper bag.

7.905

Plastic Bag Use; Definitions.

For purposes of Code Sections 7.900 to 7.930, the following terms are defined as follows:

ASTM standard. The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)'s International D-6400.

Carryout bag. Any bag that is provided by a retail establishment at the point of sale to a customer for use to transport or carry away purchases, such as merchandise, goods or food, from the retail establishment.

"Carryout bag" does not include:

- (1) Bags used by consumers inside retail establishments to:
 - a) Package bulk items, such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, candy or small hardware items;
 - b) Contain or wrap frozen foods, meat, fish, whether packaged or not;
 - c) Contain or wrap flowers, potted plants, or other items where dampness may be a problem;
 - d) Contain unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods;
or
 - e) Pharmacy prescription bags;
- (2) Laundry-dry cleaning bags or bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended to be used for home food storage, garbage waste, pet waste, or yard waste;
- (3) Product bags.

City sponsored event. Any event organized or sponsored by the city or any department of the city.

Customer. Any person obtaining goods from a retail establishment or from a vendor.

Food provider. Any person in the City that provides prepared food for public consumption on or off its premises and includes, without limitation, any retail establishment, shop, sales outlet, restaurant, grocery store, delicatessen, or catering truck or vehicle.

Grocery store. Any retail establishment that sells groceries, fresh, packaged, canned, dry, prepared or frozen food or beverage products and similar items and includes supermarkets, convenience stores, and gasoline stations.

Pharmacy. A retail use where the profession of pharmacy by a pharmacist licensed by the State of Oregon's Board of Pharmacy is practiced and where prescription medications are offered for sale.

Product or produce bag. Any bag without handles provided to a customer for use within a retail establishment to assist in the collection or transport of products to the point of sale within the retail establishment. A product or produce bag is not a carryout bag.

Recyclable paper bag. A paper bag that meets all of the following requirements:

- a) Is 100% recyclable and contains a minimum of 40% post-consumer recycled content;
- b) Is capable of composting consistent with the timeline and specifications of the ASTM Standard D6400 as defined in this section.

Retail establishment. Any store or vendor located within or doing business within the geographical limits of the city that sells or offers for sale goods at retail.

Reusable bag. A bag made of cloth or other material with handles that is specifically designed and manufactured for long-term multiple reuses and meets all of the following requirements:

- a) If cloth, is machine washable; or
- b) If plastic, has a minimum plastic thickness of 4.0 mils; and
- c) Does not contain lead, cadmium, or any other heavy metal in toxic amounts as defined by applicable state and federal standards and regulations for packaging or reusable bags.

Vendor. Any retail establishment, shop, restaurant, sales outlet or other commercial establishment located within or doing business within the geographical limits of the City that provides perishable or nonperishable goods for sale to the public.

Single-use plastic carryout bag. Any plastic carryout bag made predominately of plastic, either petroleum or biologically based, and made available by a retail establishment to a customer at the point of sale. It includes compostable and biodegradable bags but does not include reusable bags, recyclable paper bags, or product or produce bags.

Undue hardship. Circumstances or situations unique to the particular retail establishment such that there are no reasonable alternatives to single-use plastic carryout bags or a recyclable paper bag pass-through cannot be collected.

7.910 Plastic Bag Use; Regulations.

Except as exempted in Code Section 7.920:

- a) No retail establishment shall provide or make available to a customer a single-use plastic carryout bag;
- b) No person shall distribute or provide a single-use plastic carryout bag at any city facility, city managed concession, city sponsored event, or city permitted event.

7.915 Plastic Bag Use; Cost Pass-Through.

When a retail establishment makes a recyclable paper bag available to a customer at the point of sale pursuant to Code Section 7.920(b), the retail establishment may charge the customer a reasonable pass-through cost of up to 5 cents per recyclable paper bag provided to the customer; and

- a) May reimburse the customer up to 5 cents per customer-furnished reusable carry out bag; and
- b) Except for the exemption in Section 7.920(b), indicate on the customer's transaction receipts the total amount of any recyclable paper bag pass-through charge.

7.920 Plastic Bag Use; Exemptions.

Notwithstanding Code Sections 7.910 and 7.915:

- a) Retail establishments may distribute product bags and make reusable bags available to customers whether through sale or otherwise.
- b) A retail establishment shall provide a reusable bag or a recyclable paper bag at no cost at the point of sale upon the request of a customer who uses a voucher issued under the Women, Infants and Children Program established in the Oregon Health Authority under ORS 413.500 (2013).
- c) Vendors at retail fairs such as a farmers' market or holiday fair are not subject to indicating on the customer's transaction receipt the total amount of the recyclable paper bag pass-through charge required in Code Section 7.915(b).
- d) The City Manager or the designee may exempt a retail establishment from the requirement set forth in Code Sections 7.910 to 7.915 for a period of not more than one year upon the retail establishment showing, in writing, that this Code would create an undue hardship or practical difficulty not generally applicable to other persons in similar circumstances. The decision to grant or deny an exemption shall be in writing, and the City Manager's or designee's decision shall be final.

7.925 Promotion of Reusable Bags.

Retail establishments and vendors are strongly encouraged to educate their staff to promote reusable bags and to post signs encouraging customers to use reusable bags.

7.930

Violations and Penalties.

- (1) Any retail establishment or vendor violating Code Sections 7.900 to 7.920 is subject to:
 - a) Upon the first violation, the Enforcement Officer shall issue a warning notice to the retail establishing or vendor that a violation has occurred.
 - b) Upon subsequent violations, the following penalties shall apply:
 - i. \$100 for the first violation after the written warning in a calendar year;
 - ii. \$200 for the second violation in the same calendar year; and
 - iii. \$500 for any subsequent violation within the same calendar year.
 - c) No more than one penalty shall be imposed upon any single location of retail establishment or vendor within a 7-day period.
- (2) Upon making determination that a violation of Code Sections 7.900 to 7.920 or regulations has occurred, the Enforcement Officer will send a written notice of the violation by mail to the retail establishment or vendor specifying the violation and the applicable penalty as set forth in subsection 1.
- (3) Any retail establishment or vendor receiving a notice of violation must pay to the City the stated penalty or appeal the finding of a violation in accordance with the procedures set forth in City Code Section 1.090.