

City of Palmer
Ordinance No. 18-004

Subject: Enacting Palmer Municipal Code Chapter 8.09 Prohibiting the Distribution of Single-Use Disposable Plastic Shopping Bags and Amending the City of Palmer Fine Schedule

Agenda of: May 1, 2018 - Introduction

Council Action: ☒ **Adopted** ☐ **Amended:** _____
 ☐ **Defeated**


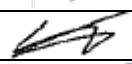

Originator Information:

Originator: Council Members Pete LaFrance and Sabrena Combs

Department Review:

| Route to: | Department Director: | Signature: | Date: |
|-----------|-----------------------|------------|-------|
| _____ | Community Development | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | Finance | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | Fire | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | Police | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | Public Works | _____ | _____ |

Approved for Presentation By:

| | Signature: | Remarks: |
|---------------|--|----------|
| City Manager |  _____ | _____ |
| City Attorney |  _____ | _____ |
| City Clerk |  _____ | _____ |

Certification of Funds:


Total amount of funds listed in this legislation: \$ 0.00

This legislation (√):

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Creates revenue in the amount of: | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Creates expenditure in the amount of: | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Creates a saving in the amount of: | \$ _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Has no fiscal impact | |

Funds are (√):

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budgeted | Line item(s): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not budgeted | _____ |

Director of Finance Signature:  _____

Attachment(s):

- Ordinance No. 18-004
- Public Testimony

Summary Statement/Background:

Plastic, single-use, disposable shopping bags are a problem in the City of Palmer. Their prevalence as litter is often noted during the annual city clean up, and at any given time they can be seen tangled in trees, bushes and fences around town. Additionally, they pose a real danger to both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and have been found in the digestive tracts of many local animals. Plastic bag bans in other regions have been shown to reduce plastic bag litter by 72% and are known to effectively help protect wildlife and pets. It is therefore in the best interest of the city to restrict the free distribution of disposable shopping bags thinner than .4 mils within the city limits. Further, a fine schedule is recommended for the distribution of single-use disposable plastic shopping bags thinner than .4 mils.

Administration's Recommendation:

Adopt Ordinance No. 18-004 Enacting Palmer Municipal Code Chapter 8.09 Prohibiting the Distribution of Single-Use Disposable Plastic Shopping Bags.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Committee of the Whole: February 27, 2018
Introduced by: Council Members LaFrance
and Combs
Date: May 1, 2018
Public Hearing: May 22, 2018
Action: Adopted
Vote: 4 Yes/1 No/1 Absent/
1 Vacant

| | |
|----------|------------|
| Yes: | No: |
| Combs | Carrington |
| DeVries | |
| Fuller | Absent: |
| LaFrance | Best |

CITY OF PALMER, ALASKA

Ordinance No. 18-004

An Ordinance of the Palmer City Council Enacting Palmer Municipal Code Chapter 8.09 Prohibiting the Distribution of Single-Use Disposable Plastic Shopping Bags and Amending the City of Palmer Fine Schedule

WHEREAS, the use of single-use carry-out disposable plastic shopping bags in the city of palmer ("city") creates a burden on the environment, endangers wildlife, and has been shown to be harmful to bodies of water and problematic for solid waste management; and

WHEREAS, to decrease the number of littered disposable plastic shopping bags in the city, it is necessary to restrict general use; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of all residents to restrict the use of single-use disposable plastic shopping bags; and

WHEREAS, plastic carryout bags do not biodegrade, create problematic environmental issues, and frequently escape from trash containers and landfills creating a burden on residents and the City for clean-up.

THE CITY OF PALMER, ALASKA, ORDAINS:

Section 1. Classification. This ordinance shall be permanent in nature and shall be incorporated into the Palmer Municipal Code.

Section 2. Severability. If any provisions of this ordinance or application thereof to any person or circumstances are held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance and the application to the other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Section 3. Palmer Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows (new language is underlined and deleted language is ~~stricken~~):

Chapter 8.09.010 Definitions

Any word, term, or phrase not defined in this section shall have its ordinary and common meaning. The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section:

"Affected establishment" means any retail or commercial business facility located inside the city of Palmer that sells goods or prepared food directly to consumers including but not limited to grocery stores, pharmacies, retail stores, and restaurants.

"Single-use plastic disposable shopping bag" means a bag made from plastic or any material not marked or labeled as "biodegradable" or "compostable" that is neither intended nor suitable for continuous reuse and that is less than 4 mils thick, designed to carry customer purchases from the seller's premises.

Chapter 8.09.020 Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to reduce the generation of waste from single-use plastic disposable shopping bags.

Chapter 8.09.030 Single-use plastic disposable shopping bag prohibited

A. No affected retail establishment may provide to any customer a single-use plastic disposable shopping bag for the purpose of carrying away goods from the point of sale.

B. No person may distribute single-use plastic disposable shopping bags at any city facility or any event held on city property.

Chapter 8.09.040 Exceptions

Exceptions to the prohibition are bags used by customers inside stores:

A. To package bulk items such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, candy or small hardware items such as nails and bolts; and

B. Bags used to contain dampness or leaks from items such as frozen foods, meat, or fish, flowers or potted plants; and

C. Bags used to protect prepared foods or bakery goods; and

D. Bags provided by pharmacists to contain prescription drugs; and

E. newspaper, laundry or dry-cleaning bags; and

F. Bags sold for consumer use, off the seller's premises, for such purposes as the collection and disposal of garbage, pet waste, or yard waste.

Chapter 8.09.050 Fines

A Violation of this chapter is an offense punishable by the fine established in the current, adopted budget.

Section 4. Amendment of city of Palmer Fine Schedule is hereby amended to add a fine schedule for the distribution of single-use plastic disposable shopping bags, as follows:

| Palmer Municipal Code (PMC) Title 8 Health & Safety | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Chapter 8.09 Prohibiting the Distribution of Single-Use Disposable Plastic Shopping Bags | | | |
| Section Title: | Section Citation: | Fine: | Fine Citation: |
| Single-use plastic disposable shopping bag prohibited | 8.09.030 | First Offence: Warning Second Offence: \$100.00 Third Offence: \$300.00 | 8.09.050 |

Section 5. Effective Date. Ordinance No. 18-004 shall take effect January 1, 2019.

Passed and approved this 22nd day of May, 2018.

Edna B. DeVries, Mayor

Norma I. Alley, MMC, City Clerk

Norma Alley

From: Alex Papasavas <contact@turkeyredak.com>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 1:31 PM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Letter for Tuesday Meeting
Attachments: Plastic Bags.doc

Hello Norma,

Attached is a letter to the City Council regarding the meeting tomorrow, Tuesday night. I am not able to attend and ask that the letter be read in my absence.

Please contact me with any questions or clarifications if necessary.

Thank you,
Alex Papasavas, Owner/Manager
Turkey Red
(907) 355-3242



City of Palmer Clerk
nalley@palmerak.org

February 24, 18

To the Palmer City Counsel,

Thank you for this discussion on finding an alternative to single use plastic bags. As the Owner/Manager of Turkey Red, I am confident in our Palmer community and the Palmer City counsel to put our heads together to develop a plan that is affordable, has minimum impact on our precious environment and minimum impact especially to those that are currently poverty stricken. As a business owner, looking at the true cost of decisions and actions is imperative in preventing costlier fixes in the future. This is where we are with this issue. Single use bags are cheap & light in weight for easier shipping, but the true cost of their existence is not calculated into the equation. When the cost of damage to wildlife alone is added, that right there makes them too costly. Extending landfills are crazy costly also, so reducing waste saves money. Other cities, states and countries are finding solutions to this problem. Over 15 years ago, London, England made available large reusable heavy-duty plastic weave bags in grocery stores for .50 pence for the lifetime of the bag. If the bag wore out, then the customer could exchange it for a new one at no cost. The first year, less than 10% of customers were using them. Within 5 years, over 90% of customers were using them. The financially advantaged and disadvantaged were both using them.

Reusable cloth bags made from hemp or bamboo is the best option. However, any reusable bag to start the process would be welcomed. We have chosen to use paper bags at our restaurant as well as paper straws. Although paper is also single use, paper bags can be recycled, will break down sooner than plastic and will not harm wildlife if eaten as much as plastic. Reusable bags are a better solution. Reusable cloth bags are the best option.

We would be more than happy to donate, contribute funds etc, for a bulk buy of reusable bags between the City of Palmer and other local businesses. The City of Palmer can have their logo on one side and the businesses can have their logos on the other. I am willing to donate time & money to help this necessary positive change in our community.

As with any new good habit, it takes conscious thought to do it enough to make it so it becomes automatic behavior. We are a diverse and clever community, so developing a habit of using reusable bags is indeed very achievable.

Thank you for your time,
Alex Papasavas

550 S. Alaska ST, STE 100
Palmer, AK 99645
Turkeyredak@gmail.com
(907)746-5544

Norma Alley

From: Brooke Heppinstall <brooke@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2018 2:42 PM
To: Norma Alley
Cc: 'Brooke Heppinstall'
Subject: plastic bag ban hearing/atten: City clerk
Attachments: Remember the aggravation over the switch from paper bags to plastic.docx
Importance: High

Hi ,

I'd like to weigh in on the bag ban issue, but, I'm leaving for Juneau tomorrow. I asked a local City Council member how to do this and she said to send this attachment to you to be read aloud at the hearing Tuesday night.

Thank you!

Brooke G Heppinstall Kroenung
Palmer, AK

Brooke Heppinstall/ Palmer AK

Remember the aggravation over the switch from paper bags to plastic? Save the forests so we can hang these plastic ones from the trees during the next wind storm! Plastic is a marvelous, too perfect invention. Eventually, it winds up in the food chain, clogs the oceans and storm drains, and makes a general mess. Plastics, in general, are a major and growing source of refuse. Paper bags can be equally bad for the overall environment. So, what we're really talking about is changing behavior from unthinking behavior to a thought process that focuses more attention: Where are my reusable bags?

Reusing stuff is a popular trend when it comes to up-cycled furniture and vintage objects, remaking thrift shop clothing, and showing off our crafty skills. Some entrepreneurs collect stuff to sell to these re-users. If we can change our point of view to value this behavior when it comes to interior design and wearables, perhaps we can do so with our shopping bags.

Personally, I can carry up to 42 pounds in one of my reusable totes. It's easier on my shoulder, doesn't break, and fits into my pocket. Friends can have fun making reusable totes. Towns could have a contest for best local design on a town tote. Businesses could host parties to make reusable totes or put their own logo on a reusable 'gift' tote. Your logo lasts longer on a reusable tote. Gifting totes is good for those in need as well.

Change itself is change resistant. It's tough enough to change our behavior to get off the couch and exercise, but, we can do it. We can learn to remember to bring our reusable totes as well.

Brooke Heppinstall

Norma Alley

From: Debby <debbb@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 4:42 PM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Support for plastic bag ban.

Dear Madam Clerk,

I am writing in support of the single use plastic bag ban proposal for tonight's meeting. I've lived in the Palmer area for 20 years. I purchase 95% of my groceries and goods in Palmer stores. I always bring my own sturdy reusable bags when I shop. I have been a board member, education committee member, and volunteer for the Valley Community Recycling Solutions for 20 years. I look forward to a community that is not choked by plastic bag debris every time the wind blows. Please include my comments in the record for tonight's meeting.

Thank you,

Debby Broneske

17750 E. Idle Drive, Palmer

Norma Alley

From: Joanie Kirk <joaniekirk@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 1:10 PM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Clerk 2.27.18 council mtg re Plastic Bag discussion

Thank you for the opportunity to address the council.

My name is Joanie Kirk, I am a naturopathic doctor in private practice in downtown Palmer. I am writing to voice my support for plastic bag ban legislation in the City of Palmer.

The health of an environment, a community and its occupants can be assessed in many ways. Water and air quality, health of the wildlife, plant life and human population are indicators of overall well-being or dis-ease.

There is enough evidence that plastic bags cause problems in wildlife, both on land and in water. It 's enough that we harm ourselves with plastics, but the effects of human made petroleum products are literally leaking into and damaging our environment and its occupants. The health issues related to humans exposed to plastics, products of the petrochemical industry is alarming and I am afraid we will see worsening problems in the future.

Banning plastic bags is a step we can take locally to address a more pervasive issue of 'what to do with all of our stuff' in our petroleum dependent culture.

Thank you.

Joanie Kirk, ND

907-707-3604 (c)
www.joaniekirknd.com
joaniekirk@gmail.com

Norma Alley

From: Rose C Smith <akrcviergutz@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 3:44 PM
To: Norma Alley
Cc: Carol Montgomery
Subject: Plastic bags

Since I am not able to attend this evening, I did want to add "my 2 cents".

A revision on the strength of the bags, as well as the fee charge, I think will make people more responsible for their proper use and recycling of.

Thank you.

Rose C Smith
Wasilla, Alaska

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| Name: (Please Print) | Item Being Addressed | Mailing Address | Contact Info (Phone and/or E-Mail) |
|----------------------|----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| PATTI FISHER | PLASTIC BAGS | 7362 W. PARKS Hwy #514 WASILLA, 99633 | psfisher@gci.net |
| Denise Christopher | Mayors Run | PO BOX 2690 Palmer, AK 99645 | 907-745-6401 |
| Diana Zitmanis | Plastic Bags | 8650 Blue Mountain Lane Palmer, AK 99645 | dianazsings@yahoo.com |
| Helen Woodings | Plastic Bags | 1745 Heritage Palmer, AK 99645 | hwoodings@gmail.com |
| Rob Czarnedzi | Plastic Bags | 335 S. Cobb St | 907 745-8245 |
| m. kelchman | Video | | |
| SANDY BEL | plastic bag | ISSUE (Ollon wood) | 745-2002 |
| Lee Henriks | plastic bags | POB 3454 Palmer | |
| Susie Hayes | " | P.O. Box 3747 Palmer | |
| Anne Marie Poes | " | 935 Battle Alexia Circle Palmer | |
| Carol Montgomery | Plastic Bag Ban | | |
| Mollie Boyer | Plastic Bag Ban | P.O. Box 317 Palmer 99645 | 745-6714 |
| Gro, MONTGOMERY | plastic bag Ban | 4542 N. Sember St Palmer, AK 99645 | 355-4451 |
| | | | |

Norma Alley

From: Lj Messenger <ljsadventure@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 8:23 PM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: I support the plastic bag ban

Hello

My name is lj messenger. I am a homeowner here in Palmer. I love our town.

I am in full support of the plastic bag ban. Sorry I was unable to make the meeting tonight.

Thanks

Lj

Sent from my iPhone

Norma Alley

From: Russ Johanson <russjohanson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 8:17 PM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Please ban plastic bags

Dear Ms. Alley,

My wife and I recently purchased land in Palmer and hope to move from Wasilla in the near future. We always viewed Palmer as more community-driven, and more forward-thinking, than our current town; I am surprised Palmer hasn't already banned plastic bags!

I own land near the dump, and I frequently utilize our wonderful trail network in the area. The damage done by plastic bags blowing from the dump is truly breathtaking, and not in the way that Alaskan scenery should be breathtaking. There are cheap, convenient, environmentally-friendly alternatives to plastic bags - reusable bags. The ubiquitous plastic bags are quite frankly a non-value-added item. Because they damage the landscape, provide no benefit, and are easily replaced with a superior alternative, I support banning plastic bags. I hope you will too.

Thank you,
Russ Johanson MD
Vice President, Mat-Su Emergency Physicians

Norma Alley

From: thomas buckley <fwhitney315@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 6:44 PM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Support limiting bags

I don't think I will make to the meeting tonight, but I fully support controlling the wasteful amount of plastic bags used in Palmer. Palmer is a beautiful community, but the amount of plastic bags I see in the spring is so disheartening. To an extent it's a littering problem, but in the valley I've seen countless winds blow bags out of flatbeds, garbage cans, shopping carts etc. They end up everywhere. Please put political jargon aside and make a decision that will boost personal responsibility and community pride. I love Palmer. Please help take care of it.

Respectfully,
Thomas Buckley
Palmer city resident



550 S. Alaska St., Suite 101, PO Box 45, Palmer, AK 99645
Tel: (907) 745-2880 Fax: (907) 746-4164
www.palmerchamber.org info@palmerchamber.org

March 19, 2018

City of Palmer
231 W. Evergreen Ave.
Palmer, AK 99645

Re: Letter of Support – Eliminating the Distribution of Single Use Plastic Bags

Dear Mayor DeVries and City Council Members,

Tourism is a vital industry in our town and many of our members profit from the annual influx of tourists that come to see our agriculture, animals and beautiful scenery. Many of our restaurants, retail stores and lodging industries depend on these visitors to balance their bottom line.

It is important to keep our city as clean and beautiful as possible so that it mirrors the photos visitors see on the internet and in travel brochures. One only needs to look at the fences, ditches and trees to know that there is a problem with the lightweight flyaway bags that often pollute our city.

The Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce believes it is in our members' best interest to pass legislation to eliminate the distribution of single-use plastic bags. We support an ordinance to achieve this measure.

The Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce thanks you for your efforts to beautify our wonderful city.

Respectfully,

Ailis Vann, President
Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce

RECEIVED

APR 19 2018

City of Palmer

Palmer Downtown Merchants' Association
Palmer, AK 99645

City of Palmer
231 W Evergreen Avenue
Palmer, AK 99645

Dear Mayor DeVries and City Council Members,

Thank you for working towards making Palmer an even better town in which to shop and live. As community members that make our living from our shops and businesses in downtown Palmer, we know the value of living and working in a beautiful and progressive town.

We need to keep our city as clean and beautiful as possible for our family, friends, and visitors that support our businesses. One only has to look at the fences, ditches, and trees to know that there is a problem with the lightweight, flyaway bags that often pollute our City. These flimsy single-use plastic bags are contributing to the plastics particles in our food chain, are dangerous to our health, to animals, and to the future for our children.

We believe it is in the best interests of the businesses and members of the Downtown Merchants' association to pass legislation to eliminate the distribution of single use plastic bags, and we support your ordinance to achieve this.

Thank you for your work to beautify our City.

Sincerely,

Palmer Downtown Merchants' Association

Misfit Moffitt's Consignment
Klondike Mike's
Just Botanicals
Flower Fingers
KNLT-FM
SHANE LAMB GALLERY
Garden Gate - Rosie Jigen
Jamaal
Jonas
Kayle
Ty Walker
Linda L Kelley
Amy Cullen
Mat-Su Valley Cancer Center
Debbie Shelton
The Boutique on Main
Michelle
the Boutique on Main
Amara Daniels

Norma Alley

From: Harvey Bowers <bowers654@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 9:11 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Plastic Bags comments

We live just east of Seward Meridian Road. We have had several businesses and properties here for many decades.

My wife and I support trying to eliminate or greatly reduce the proliferation of single use plastic bags in Palmer.

We have experienced loss due to ingestion of windblown plastic bags by our reindeer. We have had a 40 year battle with picking up windblown bags on our property.

Harvey also had cancer a number of times and almost died. Researchers have linked micro plastic ingestion to cancer. Plastic breaks down 5 mm or less and is ultimately ingested in food and water. Harvey's cancer was fairly rare but there are over a dozen cases in Mat-Su with a likely environmental trigger. The long term health associated with using plastic is only being tested by its long term use.

Using plastic for only a few minutes seems foolish. Plastic bags may not only be a nuisance but a long term public health and safety issue. Anything the City of Palmer can do to reduce the impact of single use plastic bags would be appreciated.

Thank you for consideration.

Harvey & Sandy Bowers
305 S. Bartlett Circle, Wasilla, AK 99654
email: harvey@agateinn.com

Norma Alley

From: Carol Montgomery <anclm4@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2018 11:06 PM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Plastic bag legislation

To: Norma Alley, Palmer City Clerk

From: Carol Montgomery, Mat-Su Zero Waste Coalition Plastic Bag Committee

Re: Plastic Bag Ordinance

Dear Ms. Alley,

The following is a brief history and timeline of events surrounding the movement to ban plastic bags in Alaska. I thought it would be helpful to provide some context and some history of this issue for Members of the City Council.

History and Timeline of Movement to Ban Plastic Bags in Mat-Su

In the fall of 2016, third graders on a field trip to VCRS told staff that they had witnessed Dr. Collins at the Matanuska Experiment Farm remove wads of plastic from his caribou.

Dr. Collins confirmed local ruminants were eating plastic bags. He had 2 caribou deaths. Williams Reindeer Farm confirmed they had lost reindeer due to plastic bags for years. Now they patrol fields daily to grab bags before the reindeer eat them. Agate Inn confirmed 2 reindeer deaths from plastic bag obstruction.

October, 2016, Mat-Su Zero Waste Coalition decided to form a Plastic Bag Committee [PBC] to explore this problem and to raise awareness about these hazards. We did research and found alarming hazards to marine life and learned about microplastics in salmon (see reference below*). We found necropsy confirmed deaths of other local animals and AK wildlife. We made video of local caribou/reindeer eating plastic.

October, 2016, Cordova bans plastic bags

In November, 2016, PBC surveyed shoppers at Carrs Palmer and Wasilla Walmart. Out of 266 respondents, 162 (61%) said they favored either a ban or fee to regulate single use plastic shopping bags.

August, 2017 KTUU Channel 2 news interviewed Dr. Collins at Matanuska Experiment Farm about moose eating plastic bags. Plastic bags can cause obstruction and death in moose if they eat enough of it.

Throughout 2017 PBC went to Community Councils and spoke to Rotary, Kiwanis, Chamber of Commerce and many other local groups. We found strong support and local groups contributed over \$3,000. Money was used to purchase radio ads to make people aware of hazards. PBC purchased and distributed reusable bags to over 2,000 shoppers at grocery stores in Wasilla.

August, 2017 Assembly member Barb Doty sponsored legislation through Mat-Su Borough assembly. However, the only legal option for Borough was an excise tax on single use disposable plastic shopping bags [SUDPSB].

Public turnout at Assembly showed strong support for reducing bags, but strong anti-tax feeling.

Mayor Cottle opposed the excise tax, but agreed SUDPB were a problem, so he proposed to ban the bags in Wasilla.

Borough Assembly decided to wait and see what Wasilla would do.

January 2018, Wasilla City Council voted 5:1 to ban SUDSB. Written testimony was 47:1 in favor and public comments were 2:1 in favor.

KTVA Ch 11 reported on Wasilla ordinance and conducted a poll asking viewers whether Anchorage should ban plastic bags. 75% were in favor.

2018 Kodiak and Soldotna both passed bans on SUDPSB

In 2018 AK legislative session, HB 264, a ban on SUDPSB passed two House committees but didn't get enough support to go to the House floor. Public testimony during hearings was overwhelmingly in favor of the ban.

April, 2018, Pete LaFrance introduces ordinance to Palmer CC to ban SUDPSB

References for further information about the hazards of plastic:

Plastic trash in the ocean: <https://scienceworld.scholastic.com/issues/2016-17/041717/an-ocean-of-plastic.html>
https://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/health/case_studies/plastics.html

Plastic in fish:

*https://www.researchgate.net/publication/278041328_Ingestion_of_Microplastics_by_Zooplankton_in_the_Northeast_Pacific_Ocean
<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2016/aug/31/fish-plastic-pollution-ocean-environment-seafood>

Plastic effects on human health:<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2967230/>
<https://www.news-medical.net/news/20100320/Impact>

Norma Alley

From: Sarah Keith Kehoe <skkehoe@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2018 5:20 AM
To: Norma Alley
Cc: WACBABs
Subject: In favor of plastic bag ban

Dear Palmer city council,

I am fully in favor of the plastic bag ban. Plastic bags are strewn across the landscape and are ugly. Plastic bags are causing harm to animals and to our reputation as a state. I hope you will all vote wholeheartedly in favor of this ban. We Alaskans can do better and have no need for it. We can learn to do better and will. Please help us in this regard and rise us all up in doing the right thing.

Thank you for your service,

Sarah Kehoe
Physician Assistant
P O box 765
Talkeetna
AK 99676

Sent from my iPhone

Norma Alley

From: Sabrena Combs
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2018 5:10 PM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Fwd: Ordinance 18-0004

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Regin Dervaes <regin.dervaes@gmail.com>
Date: May 16, 2018 at 12:54:35 PM AKDT
Cc: edevries@Palmerak.org, rbest@Palmerak.org, scarrington@Palmerak.org, scombs@Palmerak.org, dfuller@Palmerak.org, plafrance@Palmerak.org
Subject: Ordinance 18-0004

Thank you for taking the time to address this issue within our community. I am a proponent for banning one time plastic bags in the greater Palmer area.

Plastic bags may be convenient during our shopping trips, but they are doing more harm than good. According to National Geographic, we use more than 500 billion plastic bags every year and, because the bags are so easily discarded, many are swept into rivers or drains and end up in the ocean. This makes plastic bags among the top 12 items of debris found along coastlines.

And once the bags are there, they do not go away for a very long time. Plastic bags are made of a type of plastic called polyethylene. Because polyethylene is not biodegradable without special treatment, items made of it rapidly accumulate in borough dumps and garbage patches in the ocean and can take more than 300 years to decompose.

We need to vote to approve ordinance 18-0004 to ensure that the planet is protected from the harmful effects of plastic bags. With Ordinance 18-0004 we can make sure we do not introduce more bags into the landfills, rivers and oceans.

Thank you,

Regin Dervaes

Norma Alley

From: Sabrena Combs
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2018 5:10 PM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Fwd: I SUPPORT Ordinance 18-0004

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Megan Fritts <megan.l.fritts@gmail.com>
Date: May 16, 2018 at 5:00:17 PM AKDT
To: "<edevries@Palmerak.org>" <edevries@palmerak.org>
Subject: I SUPPORT Ordinance 18-0004

Dear City Council,

Please pass ordinance 18-0004 and help prevent unnecessary single use plastic bag pollution.

Please see article from the USDA site and know that your choice WILL make a difference.

<https://reader.elsevier.com/reader/sd/6449CE17D11CBFC31EEE195C0623CF1FC0B5D38104AAA9B20E8E80869C7E007AAA0660F11212F5875BDF97CC67AD94C0>

I am low income and find it extremely easy to use my 5 oversized \$0.58 reusable bags from Walmart once a week when shopping for my family. It's actually easier because you have less to deal with when you unload.

Your decision is leading the way for change and it's what the residents want.

Thank you for your time!

Megan Fritts
Palmer, AK

Norma Alley

From: Norma Alley
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2018 9:17 AM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: FW: Palmer Plastic Bay Ordinance

Begin forwarded message:

From: Doug Hill <apprendre@gci.net>
Date: May 16, 2018 at 5:26:35 PM AKDT
To: <scombs@palmerak.org>
Subject: Palmer Plastic Bay Ordinance

[Plastic in the food chain, plastic in tap water, fish and wildlife eating plastic ...](#)

[Plastic Fibers Are Found in 83% of the World's Tap Water, a New Study Reveals \(Time Magazine\): <http://time.com/4928759/plastic-fiber-tap-water-study/>](#)

[Your Table Salt Is Likely Sprinkled With Microplastics, Research Reveals \(Forbes Magazine\): \[https://www.forbes.com/sites/trevornace/2017/09/14/table-salt-contains-carcinogenic-plastic-study/&refURL=https://www.google.com/&referrer=https://www.google.com/\]\(https://www.forbes.com/sites/trevornace/2017/09/14/table-salt-contains-carcinogenic-plastic-study/?toURL=https://www.forbes.com/sites/trevornace/2017/09/14/table-salt-contains-carcinogenic-plastic-study/&refURL=https://www.google.com/&referrer=https://www.google.com/\)](#)

I have personally picked up hundreds of plastic grocery bags from roadsides, forest, wetlands, lakes, rivers, ...After the bags have been exposed to I don't know how many days of UV rays they shatter like glass into small pieces. Micro plastics are a major issue facing humanity. Fish eat the micro-plastics as they would plankton or insects.

What possible downside can there be to taking this one little step of banning plastic grocery bags? In my mind there is no sane reason to not ban them.

Recycling is not an answer to the problem. Many humans are still littering. Many people do not secure loads of trash in the back of their trucks. There is no reason for the trash that we see accumulating along, for example, the Glenn Highway in the Palmer Hay Flats where I have picked up many plastic grocery bags.

Please vote to ban plastic bags in Palmer.

I am sending this to all member of the Palmer City Council.

Thank you for your time,

Doug Hil
437 S Gulkana Street
Palmer, Alaska

Norma Alley

From: Edna DeVries
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2018 8:07 AM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Fwd: Support for Palmer Plastic Bag Ordinance

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Patricia Fisher <psfisher@gci.net>
Date: May 16, 2018 at 9:33:12 PM AKDT
To: <edevries@palmerak.org>
Subject: Support for Palmer Plastic Bag Ordinance

Dear Mayor, please consider a positive vote on the Plastic Bag ordinance. It is time to recognize that these bags are a hazard to our environment. And there are simple alternatives to using plastic bags.

Keep an open mind and please consider that we must begin changing our habits which are so detrimental to the environment.

Patti Fisher

Norma Alley

From: Edna DeVries
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2018 8:09 AM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Fwd: Palmer Plastic Bag Ordinance

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: karen johnson <ksjohnson4911@gmail.com>
Date: May 16, 2018 at 5:14:27 PM AKDT
To: dfuller@palmerak.org, scarrington@palmerak.org, rbest@palmerak.org, edevries@palmerak.org
Subject: Palmer Plastic Bag Ordinance

Dear Council Members: I am sending this message to encourage you to carefully consider the Palmer Plastic Bag Ordinance and cast a vote to implement the ordinance = a ban on single use plastic bags.

This spring I have spent 6 hours pulling plastic (bags, tubs, containers & lids, and pet food bags) out of the brush at the back of my small yard. The trash accumulation is frustrating, especially when I think about how much of it would be eliminated if the community was not using light weight "grocery" bags.

I fully support a ban on plastic bags used at retail stores. It won't take long for folks to get used to bringing their own reusable bags on their shopping outings.

Sincerely,
Karen S. Johnson, Palmer resident since 1952

Norma Alley

From: Edna DeVries
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2018 9:12 AM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Fwd: Please support bag ban

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Judy and Mark Masteller <markjudy@mtaonline.net>
Date: May 17, 2018 at 8:46:07 AM AKDT
To: <rbest@palmerak.org>, <dfuller@palmerak.org>, <edevries@palmerak.org>, <scarrington@palmerak.org>
Subject: Please support bag ban

Hello Palmer City Council members,
While we don't live within the city of Palmer, we live just outside (and prefer to shop in Palmer). We strongly support the proposed plastic bag ban, and hope you support it as well. Please do the right thing and follow Wasilla's lead – so we can spend our grocery money in Palmer! Thanks,
Mark and Judy Masteller

641 S. Lower Rd
Palmer

Norma Alley

From: Sabrena Combs
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2018 11:48 AM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Fwd: Plastic bag ban

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Judy and Mark Masteller <markjudy@mtaonline.net>
Date: May 17, 2018 at 8:54:39 AM AKDT
To: <scombs@palmerak.org>, <plafrance@palmerak.org>
Subject: Plastic bag ban

Hi Sabrena and Pete,

I wanted to pass along that while we do not live in Palmer proper, we prefer to shop there. Our understanding is that you both already support the plastic bag ban, so we want to thank you for that. We pointed out to the other council members that currently (with Wasilla's recent bag ban) we're tempted to spend our grocery money in Wasilla. So, if you think it helps during discussion of the ordinance, please point out that for some of us this can tip the scales as to which way we drive. (We live between the two communities.)

Thanks for your forward thinking and support of this ordinance!

Sincerely,
Mark and Judy Masteller

641 S. Lower Rd
Palmer

Norma Alley

From: Edna DeVries
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2018 12:08 PM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Fwd: Plastic garbage

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Monica Gilpin <monicainak@gmail.com>
Date: May 17, 2018 at 11:42:30 AM AKDT
To: edevries@palmerak.org
Subject: Plastic garbage

The plastic bags are destructive to the environment and animals alike. They travel for miles and end up in oceans, trees, and waterways. As you are aware the winds originate in the Palmer area. Consider the waste you are generating as a community for those all downwind of you. Vote to ban plastic bags. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Norma Alley

From: Matthew Morse <mynameispavlov@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2018 8:34 PM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

Dear Palmer City Council,

Palmer should join Wasilla and the 30+ other Alaskan communities who have banned plastic bags. Plastic bags are unsightly, unnecessary, unhealthy and addictive. We gave them up in Glennallen just about one year ago. The main vendor here, IGA, switched to paper bags and the impact was immediate. The local landfill no longer has trees covered in plastic. Shoppers have had to adjust to life with paper bags (you have to pick them up from the bottom), and many began bringing their own reusable cloth bags.

More importantly, we added our voice to Cordova, Bethel and all the other communities who have enough pride in our beautiful state to do the right thing and make a small sacrifice to keep Alaska litter-free.

Palmer's plastic bags end up littering our community, too. Either our people are shopping in Palmer and bringing them here, or those Palmer high winds blow them all the way to Glennallen! If a big store like Costco can manage without plastic bags, then so can Palmer. If the ban is implemented, I will shop in Palmer rather than driving all the way to the Costco in Anchorage.

Respectfully,

Matt Morse

Norma Alley

From: Rachel Stratton <yowlingwolf@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2018 8:38 PM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Plastic Bag Ordinance

5/17/18

Dear Palmer City Council,

I am writing regarding the pending plastic bag ordinance. I support the reduction of plastic waste and believe “banning the bag” would provide enormous benefits to the Mat-Su borough, the state of Alaska, and beyond.

It seems like plastic bags are everywhere! Plastic industries and lobbyists encourage enormous rates of plastic consumption. Single use plastic accounts for a third of U.S. garbage, filling our landfills at an alarming pace. Americans use 720,000 plastic bags every minute. (I once saw someone buy a small garbage can, carry it home in a plastic bag, and then throw the bag into the garbage can.) Once we’re done carrying our groceries home and the bags have served their purpose, they don’t just disappear! Plastic bags can take up to 1000 years to degrade. Conservation-minded consumers try to offset the harmful effects of plastic by recycling. The sad truth, however, is that the process of recycling plastic is not nearly as efficient as the process of recycling paper, glass or aluminum. The plastic recycling process is also toxic and harmful to the plant workers and the environment.

Plastic has other negative impacts on our environment as well. There are multiple islands the size of the continental United States in our oceans that are made up entirely of small bits of plastic. Our fish and our wildlife eat it. When we eat the fish and wildlife, we too are eating toxic plastic.

Many other cities in Alaska have taken steps to protect our beautiful state by banning plastic bags. In Glennallen, where we have no city government, hundreds of citizens signed a petition requesting that our stores begin charging for the use of plastic bags. As a result, our largest grocery store began using paper bags and offering discounts for bringing cloth bags. There has been an immediate impact—I used to see hundreds of plastic bags littering the trees at our local landfill (try getting a plastic bag out of a tree 30 feet in the air and you begin to realize what a nuisance these things are), and now there are only a handful of plastic bags uglifying our trees and blowing around our community. Since many of our residents do their bulk shopping in the Palmer and Wasilla areas, the bags we do see are mostly Fred Meyer and Wal-Mart bags from the Valley. Passing a plastic bag ordinance would not only make the Palmer/Wasilla area a nicer place to live, it would make the Copper River Valley more beautiful too! This means our state will continue to be a breathtaking place for tourists to visit, thereby supporting our economy.

Thank you for spending the time and energy to work on the important issue—Alaska’s beauty is worth protecting. May we work together to leave a strong legacy and a healthy land for our children and grandchildren!

Sincerely,

Rachel Stratton
P.O. Box 614
Glennallen, AK 99588

Norma Alley

From: Edna DeVries
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2018 8:55 PM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Fwd:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Suzanne McCausland <suzanne@mtaonline.net>
Date: May 17, 2018 at 4:59:59 PM AKDT
To: <edevries@palmerak.org>

Hi, my experience with plastic bags has been interesting, even double based heading out of Safeway and Freddies the bags have broken in the wind and I have had to chase my groceries all over the parking lot. i hate plastic bags as a result. Besides the land fill is uninvited and it does not decompose. I think everyone will find using their own or the ones you can get at the stores the are stronger and better and no waste to be recycled. A win win.

thank you for all you do for Palmer. Your are appreciated.

suzanne McCausland

Born in Alaska 1944

Raised in this beautiful valley, the only pace that feels like home.

Norma Alley

From: Edna DeVries
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2018 10:25 AM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Fwd: I support the plastic bag ban

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Gail Volt <gail.volt@gmail.com>
Date: May 18, 2018 at 9:50:16 AM AKDT
To: "bhanson@palmerak.org" <bhanson@palmerak.org>, "dfuller@palmerak.org" <dfuller@palmerak.org>, "edevries@palmerak.org" <edevries@palmerak.org>, "plafrance@palmerak.org" <plafrance@palmerak.org>, "rbest@palmerak.org" <rbest@palmerak.org>, "scarrington@palmerak.org" <scarrington@palmerak.org>, "scombs@palmerak.org" <scombs@palmerak.org>
Subject: I support the plastic bag ban

I am urging you to vote in favor of the plastic bag ban.

I am a resident of Palmer.

I have spent the past few weeks participating in various spring trash cleanup activities in my neighborhood here in Palmer and along the Glenn Highway on the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. There is a discouragingly large number of plastic bags dumped along our roadsides into our forests, wetlands, and waterways. The bags I found were in various stages of decay, breaking down into smaller and smaller pieces of toxic plastic that are easily absorbed into the food chain, but never break down into harmless organics. Please help put a stop to this unnecessary pollution by voting to support the plastic bag ban.

I have carried and used cloth reusable shopping bags for many years. I even use smaller reusable mesh bags for purchasing and storing produce. It took bit of retraining to remember to bring my bags into the store, but it quickly became automatic. My bags are cotton and get thrown in the laundry a few times a month to keep them sanitary. I made several of them so that if I forget to put them back in the car after unloading my groceries, there are still some left in the car for my next shopping trip. It's easy and now I feel like I'm forgetting something if I walk into a store without my bags in my pocket.

Think about Costco - they don't have any type of bagging available, and people often buy large quantities of groceries there. Shoppers there don't seem to mind and the stores always are busy. If they can do it, why can't all the other stores?

Hawaii has successfully implemented the plastic bag ban and folks there have adjusted to it well.

And last but not least, are we going to let Wasilla out-do us? I mean, come on - right now Wasilla is more environmentally sensitive and aware than our beautiful little city of Palmer! Let's not make Palmer the black eye of the valley. Please vote in favor of the plastic bag ban!

The Alaska state flower is not a plastic bag blooming in a hayfield.

Respectfully,

Gail Volt

Norma Alley

From: Ruth McHenry <cca@coppervalleyak.net>
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2018 4:43 PM
To: Norma Alley
Cc: Gay Wellman; Janelle Eklund; Arlene Rosenkrans; Matt Morse
Subject: plastic bag ordinance

Good morning,

I was chatting with Matt Morse out at the Glennallen landfill this week, and he said that Palmer has introduced an ordinance banning plastic bags. He said that you would welcome some comments from other communities about what we have done to rein in plastics. You already know about Matt's impressive campaign to gather signatures and generate interest in reducing plastic bag use in the Copper Basin. One result was that paper bags are becoming the default in the region's largest grocery store.

Our local conservation advocacy organization, Copper Country Alliance, was inspired by Matt's work to purchase high quality USA-made organic cotton carry bags. We've sold them and given them away as prizes. It seems that one plastic-reduction effort inspires others in a sort of chain reaction. I've copied this email to some of my friends who are also committed to reducing plastic use. Maybe some of them can send their ideas.

Even though we do not live in Palmer, the plastics that escape into the environment in Palmer, the rest of the U.S., and the rest of the world can eventually harm the salmon that return from the sea to our region. Also, it will be a pleasure to drive down the Glenn Highway and see fewer plastic bags along the highway.

Best of luck with the ordinance.

Ruth

--

Ruth McHenry, Executive Director
Copper Country Alliance
HC60 Box 306T
Copper Center, AK 99573
907-822-3644

This email has been checked for viruses by AVG.
<https://www.avg.com>

Norma Alley

From: Ruth McHenry <cca@coppervalleyak.net>
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2018 4:52 PM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Re: plastic bag ordinance

Hi, Norma,

Just discovered that an email I thought I sent you earlier today failed to go through because I mis-typed your email address. I just re-sent it, and now I'm re-sending a thought that Gay Wellman supplied.

Ruth McHenry, Executive Director
Copper Country Alliance
HC60 Box 306T
Copper Center, AK 99573
907-822-3644

On 5/18/2018 10:35 AM, Gay wrote:

> Thanks for sending this on Ruth. Best of luck with the ordinance, Norma.
> Does anyone know which is recycled more effectively, plastic or aluminum? I've recently changed from purchasing the seltzer water we use in aluminum cans rather than the plastic ones but it a bit harder to deal with the multiple cans.
> Personally what I've been doing re. plastic bags is to have the cloth ones in my car and then if I forget to take them in I take the un-bagged groceries out to the car to bag them there. I'm hoping this will help me remember to take them in with me. :) I'd like to figure out how to buy things without the plastic containers every thing comes in these days.
> Gay
>
>> On May 18, 2018, at 10:26 AM, Ruth McHenry <cca@coppervalleyak.net> wrote:
>>
>> Good morning,
>>
>> I was chatting with Matt Morse out at the Glennallen landfill this week, and he said that Palmer has introduced an ordinance banning plastic bags. He said that you would welcome some comments from other communities about what we have done to rein in plastics. You already know about Matt's impressive campaign to gather signatures and generate interest in reducing plastic bag use in the Copper Basin. One result was that paper bags are becoming the default in the region's largest grocery store.
>>
>> Our local conservation advocacy organization, Copper Country Alliance, was inspired by Matt's work to purchase high quality USA-made organic cotton carry bags. We've sold them and given them away as prizes. It seems that one plastic-reduction effort inspires others in a sort of chain reaction. I've copied this email to some of my friends who are also committed to reducing plastic use. Maybe some of them can send their ideas.
>>
>> Even though we do not live in Palmer, the plastics that escape into the environment in Palmer, the rest of the U.S., and the rest of the world can eventually harm the salmon that return from the sea to our region. Also, it will be a pleasure to drive down the Glenn Highway and see fewer plastic bags along the highway.
>>
>> Best of luck with the ordinance.
>>
>> Ruth
>>

>> --
>> Ruth McHenry, Executive Director
>> Copper Country Alliance
>> HC60 Box 306T
>> Copper Center, AK 99573
>> 907-822-3644
>>
>>
>> ---
>> This email has been checked for viruses by AVG.
>> <https://www.avg.com>
>>
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Norma Alley

From: Sabrena Combs
Sent: Sunday, May 20, 2018 9:20 AM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Fwd: Support plastic bag ban

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: jerry hupp <huppjerry@gmail.com>
Date: May 20, 2018 at 8:52:09 AM AKDT
To: scarrington@palmerak.org, scombs@palmerak.org, dfuller@palmerak.org, bhanson@palmerak.org,
plafrance@palmerak.org, edevries@palmerak.org, rbest@palmerak.org
Subject: Support plastic bag ban

Dear Members of the Palmer City Council,

I support passage of proposed ordinance 18-004 that will prohibit distribution of single use plastic bags.

As a retired person, I often help with roadside cleanup. I can tell you that plastic bags comprise a high proportion of trash collected in the forests and wetlands next to our roads. Winds carry them far beyond roadsides. These bags never truly break down. They merely deteriorate to a point where plastic microfibers are released that can be ingested by our fish and wildlife. They pose a long-term risk that accumulates as more bags are used and disposed of improperly. Our continued use of plastic bags is a disservice to our kids and generations beyond.

For many years my family has used reusable cloth bags when we shop. They are convenient and an excellent alternative to plastic.

Palmer and the surrounding area are too lovely to continue to trash with plastic bags. Please support this ordinance.

Thank you.

Jerry Hupp
P.O. Box 1529
Palmer, AK 99645

Norma Alley

From: Sabrena Combs
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2018 12:50 PM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Fwd: I am in support of Ordinance 18-0004!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: LJ Messenger <ljadventure@gmail.com>
Date: May 21, 2018 at 12:48:04 PM AKDT
To: edevries@palmerak.org, rbest@palmerak.org, scarrington@palmerak.org, scombs@palmerak.org,
dfulle@palmerak.org, plafrance@palmerak.org
Subject: I am in support of Ordinance 18-0004!

Hello Team,

I am writing to let you know that as a member of the Palmer community, I am in full support of Ordinance 18-0004. Please help ban plastic bags to better our community.

Thank you
Lj Messenger
413 South Gulkana Street

Norma Alley

From: Edna DeVries
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2018 1:21 PM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Fwd: I STRONGLY support18-0004

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Thomas Cruz <fwhitney315@gmail.com>
Date: May 21, 2018 at 1:03:10 PM AKDT
To: edevries@palmerak.org, rbest@palmerak.org, scarrington@Palmerak.org, scombs@palmerak.org, dfuller@palmerak.org, plafrance@palmerak.org
Subject: I STRONGLY support18-0004

I am a father and avid outdoorsman here in Palmer. I believe in personal responsibility and do not feel that convenience outweighs doing the right thing and banning the single use plastic bags that speckle our beautiful land like a filthy rash on gods skin.

I vote, and I hope that you all vote for what's best for our community not what allows us to be laziest. Please support ordinance 18-0004.

Thank you,
Thomas E. Buckley
Palmer.
Sent from my iPad

Norma Alley

From: Jo Overholt <joverholt@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2018 10:20 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Re: Single use plastic bags

To: Palmer City Council Members

Re: Single Use Plastic Bag Ban

I am in favor of banning single use plastic bags and urge the city council members to vote in favor of the ban at the upcoming meeting. Can you think of anything that would have less impact on an individual, yet have a major cumulative positive effect on our community?

Banning of single use bags would be good for the community, good for wildlife, good for the environment, and good for the ocean. We all share these resources, and we can all take this teeny, tiny step to help keep our world a little cleaner.

Jo Overholt
Clark Wolverine Road
Palmer, AK
997 244-3415
joverholt@mtaonline.net

Norma Alley

From: Shannon Powers <canuckgirl935@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2018 5:01 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Ordinance 18-0004

I am emailing in support of the Ordinance banning certain plastic bags in Palmer. I am seventeen years old and I do not want to have to pay for the cost of cleaning up plastic bag pollution when I am older. Plastic bags are not necessary for our community. Animals and fish eat them which is harmful for an area where many families rely on hunting and fishing. Also preventing pollution is generally more cost effective than cleaning up a widespread pollution problem. Furthermore, bringing your own bag will not be any more expensive or inconvenient than having plastic bags.

Thanks,
Shannon Powers

Norma Alley

From: Maggie Hejl <maggiehejl@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2018 9:37 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Please support Bag Ban Ordinance

Dear Palmer City Council Members,

As a Palmer business owner, I'm writing in regards to Ordinance 18-004- Prohibiting the Distribution of Single-Use Plastic Bags, and request you support the passage of this ordinance.

Thank you,
Maggie Hejl, LMT
Morningsky Massage Therapy, Owner

Norma Alley

From: Josh Hejl <joshhejl@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2018 10:05 PM
To: City Clerk; Norma Alley
Subject: Ordinance 18-004

I support the proposed ban on stores using and distributing plastic bags.

Similar to natural resource extraction these stores profit from us, it is our responsibility to be sure they are not polluting our communities for their own profit.

The world over It has become obvious common courtesy and environmental responsibility have been trumped by fiduciary profits and greed. Let's not allow our community to become another flint Michigan.

This is our land.

Josh Hejl
907-707-3590
joshhejl@gmail.com
joshhejlphotography.com

Please excuse typos this email was sent from a pocket computer

Norma Alley

From: Cathelyne Powers <cathelynepowers@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2018 11:38 AM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

My name is Cathelyne Powers and I graduated last year from Colony High School, and I just finished my freshman year at Colorado State University. I believe that banning plastic shopping bags in the city of Palmer is an important step to move forward on protecting our environment, and therefore bettering the place that we call home. Every so often, and not nearly as often as we should, my family will go and pick up trash from the side of the Palmer Wasilla Highway. It is always disappointing to see how much of the trash consists of plastic bags. Bags that scientists believe never fully degrade. Most of the time they serve as a nuisance or eye sore for many people admiring the beauty of the land that surrounds us. However, there have been increasing studies into the more harmful, detrimental effects of plastic bags. If the city of Palmer were to ban plastic shopping bags, this would eliminate a noticeable percentage of waste that ends up on the side of the road, in the trees, and in our water. Especially when a relatively easy solution to the problem is bringing your own shopping bags to the store with you, which requires little effort.

I realize that one of the arguments against the ban, is that banning plastic shopping bags is viewed as an overreach. As a citizen I realize the importance of keeping and maintaining your rights. However, with rights there are responsibilities. Personally, I feel as though one of my responsibilities is making sure that future generations have the access to an environment that is not polluted by cheap plastics, and that the ecology they are surrounded by is not non-existent because it has been chocked off by large amounts of man made pollution. I think that by passing this ordinance the city of Palmer would begin making a big step in providing that kind of future. Thank you for your consideration.

Cathelyne Powers

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Norma Alley

From: Edna DeVries
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2018 12:55 PM
To: Norma Alley
Subject: Fwd: Plastic Bag Ordinance

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Joanie Kirk <joaniekirk@gmail.com>
Date: May 22, 2018 at 12:49:19 PM AKDT
To: edevries@palmerak.org, scombs@palmerak.org, scarrington@palmerak.org, dfuller@palmerak.org,
plafrance@palmerak.org, rbest@palmerak.org
Subject: Plastic Bag Ordinance

I would like to thank the Palmer City Council for the opportunity to provide public testimony. I am unable to attend the meeting tonight, May 22, 2018.

My name is Joanie Kirk, I am a naturopathic doctor in private practice in downtown Palmer.

I am writing in support of the plastic bag ban ordinance.

As a health care provider, I am concerned about the effects of plastics on human health. There is substantial evidence in the scientific legislature discussing plastic residues leading to disruption in the endocrine system leading directly to reproductive disease and thyroid issues.

In this community, I have treated a number of patients with such conditions, enough to warrant aiming toward the reduction of plastics in our environment and daily lifestyles. One patient in particular had been weaving plastic bags into small baskets as an art project for about a year before contracting reproductive organ disorders related to plastic residue. this was verified by diagnostic lab testing.. Upon cessation of this activity and months of substantial treatment, many of her symptoms subsided. World-wide we are seeing girls entering puberty at younger and younger ages, along with an increase in reproductive organ disorders, decreased fertility in both males and females.

Eliminating single-use plastic bags is an obvious and simple step toward reducing these health care concerns.

References upon request.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanie Kirk ND

--

Joanie Kirk, ND

907-707-3604 (c)

www.joaniekirknd.com

joaniekirk.nerium.com

Norma Alley

From: Erbey_Cynthia <Erbey_Cynthia@asdk12.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2018 3:26 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: PLASTIC BAG BAN

Please consider banning plastic bags. There are too many ecofriendly alternatives. I have 6 rolled bags in my purse and more in my car for when I go shopping.

Thank you

Cynthia A Erbey