

RESOLUTION NO. RS2018-1385

A resolution requesting that grocery store operators within Davidson County take effective measures to reduce the use and/or impact of single-use plastic carryout bags and report the measures being undertaken in this effort, and encouraging the use of reusable bags by residents and businesses within Davidson County.

WHEREAS, the proliferation of single-use plastic bags presents a unique and harmful problem for Nashville's citizens, environment, and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, more than 380 billion plastic bags are used in the U.S. every year, requiring 12 million barrels of oil to manufacture; and

WHEREAS, single-use plastic carryout bags do not easily biodegrade, persist in the environment for hundreds of years, and break down into toxic, micro-plastic particulates that contaminate soil and water; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that fewer than one percent of single-use plastic bags are recycled, and improper disposal of single-use plastic bags contributes to widespread litter, clogged drainage systems, and the needless death of animals through ingestion and entanglement; and

WHEREAS, the Davidson County Solid Waste Region Board, in collaboration with the Metropolitan Department of Public Works, has begun the process of formulating the "Solid Waste Master Plan," a 30-year strategy with the ultimate goal of zero waste; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of cities, counties, and municipalities across the United States -- as well as multiple countries around the world -- have banned or discouraged the use of plastic bags. Most recently, The Kroger Co. -- the largest supermarket chain in the United States -- announced plans to phase out single-use plastic bags in all of its stores by the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, the reduction of single-use plastic bags and the increased use of reusable bags would reduce waste and litter and ultimately save costs to consumers and retail establishments; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of protecting our natural environment and the public health and welfare, grocery store operators should be encouraged to reduce the use and/or impact of single-use plastic bags, and residents and businesses in Nashville should be encouraged to choose reusable bags over single-use plastic bags.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. That the Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as requesting grocery store operators in Davidson County to reduce the use and/or impact of single-use plastic carryout bags. In observance of such efforts, the Metropolitan Council further requests that grocery store operators, on a voluntary basis, report the specific measures and efforts they are undertaking to the Council no later than December 31, 2018.

Section 2. That the Metropolitan County Council hereby further goes on record as encouraging residents to choose reusable bags, as opposed to single-use plastic bags, and as encouraging businesses to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags and instead choose more sustainable alternatives.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

SPONSORED BY:

Davette Blalock
Member of Council