

# Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance



## What problems are we looking to solve?

### LITTER

- In 2002, 50 to 80 million bags ended up as litter in the US
- Once plastic enters the environment, it never leaves – just becomes smaller and smaller pieces of plastic
- In a recent river cleanup, 1 mile of the Mississippi River over 2.5 hours generated 5 tons of trash

### WASTE

- Minnesotans throw away 87,000 tons of plastic bags every year
- In Minneapolis, most plastic bags end up in the downtown garbage burner
- Less than 5% of plastic bags are recycled in the US, while more than 49% of paper bags are

### LIFECYCLE IMPACTS

- All bags require energy, create waste, and cause greenhouse gas emissions and air and water pollution
- Single-use paper bags create 64 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions and 31 pounds of water pollution per 10,000 uses
- Single-use plastic bags create 9 pounds of solid waste, 18 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions and 2 pounds of water pollution per 10,000 uses

### PLASTIC BAGS NEGATIVELY IMPACT SINGLE-SORT RECYCLING FACILITIES

- Plastic bags wrap around sorting machines, requiring the sorting line to be shut down several times each day
- Plastic bags that end up in recycling facilities are not recycled

## Proposed Solution

To incent Minneapolis customers to bring our own bags when we shop, we propose a ban on single-use plastic bags and a single-use paper bag fee.

### PLASTIC BAG BAN

#### Exemptions

- Reusable bags over 4mil in thickness
- Produce bags without handles
- Dry-cleaner, newspaper, and door-hanger bags and plastic bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended for use as garbage bags or to contain pet waste
- Bags without handles to safeguard public health and safety during the transportation of prepared take-out foods and prepared liquids intended for consumption away from the retail establishment

### PAPER BAG FEE

- Proposed minimum fee amount: \$.05 per bag kept by retailer
- Retail establishments cannot collect the fee from anyone with a voucher or electronic benefits card issued by any federal or state food assistance program

### OTHER JURISDICTIONS

- Over 160 US cities have enacted single-use bag bans and/or fees, including Seattle, WA; Portland, OR; Dallas, TX; Austin, TX; Cambridge, MA; Santa Fe, NM; Boulder, CO; Washington, DC; Los Angeles, San Francisco and Oakland, CA
- The whole state of Hawaii has banned plastic bags

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Proposal based on recommendations from the Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission
- Preliminary presentation to Licensing Department's Business Advisory Group
- Meetings held with representatives of plastic bag, paper bag, and grocery industries

### NEXT STEPS

- Continued community engagement
- Public hearing at the Health, Environment and Community Engagement committee in the first half of 2016
- Adoption by Council
- Phased-in implementation to start in 2017