
Council Meeting Date: February 4, 2013

Agenda Item: 8 (a)

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Discussion of Plastic Carryout Bag Regulation Alternatives
DEPARTMENT:	City Manager's Office
PRESENTED BY:	John Norris, CMO Management Analyst
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

In April 2012, the Council discussed the policy considerations of employing plastic carryout bag regulations in Shoreline. Given this discussion, there was varying opinion on the Council about whether the City should continue a discussion about enacting regulations. In a follow up to this discussion, the City asked Shoreline citizens in the 2012 Citizen Satisfaction Survey whether they would like to see plastic carryout bag regulations in Shoreline. Staff has also conducted a survey of businesses in Shoreline to obtain their input on potential regulations and a plastic carryout bag regulatory model, if enacted. Thus, this staff report will provide this stakeholder outreach information along with a follow up discussion about various regulatory models the Council could enact.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The resource and financial impacts of regulating plastic carryout bags are unknown at this time. It is possible that there may be an impact on retail sales in Shoreline if the City decides to regulate plastic carryout bags. However, it is unknown what the magnitude of the impacts would be, if any, or if the impacts would be positive or negative. In brief discussions with other local cities that have enacted plastic carryout bag regulations, although not supported by any data, retail sales seem to be unaffected. As well, even if retail sales or retail sales tax dropped after adoption of the regulations, it would be impossible to conclusively establish a direct causal link between the plastic carryout bag regulations and the reduction in retail sales.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff is looking for additional direction from the full Council regarding Council's interest in having staff bring back draft ordinance language that would put in place a regulatory framework for plastic carryout bags provided at retail establishments. If the Council is interested in carryout bag regulations, staff recommends that the Council employ a ban on plastic carryout bags plus a mandatory fee on paper carryout bags, similar to the model used by the City of Seattle.

Approved by: City Manager **JU** City Attorney **IS**

BACKGROUND:

In April of last year, the Council discussed the policy considerations of employing plastic carryout bag regulations in Shoreline. This entailed a discussion of the environmental reasons why such regulations would align with the City's Environmental Sustainability Strategy and why such regulations might make good policy sense with regard to the Council's desire for environmental stewardship of the community and region. As well, the Council also discussed and heard from the public regarding potential impacts to regional businesses if regulations were enacted, along with concerns that plastic carryout bags are not in fact "single use" and can be reused or recycled. Staff also provided some national research and data that tried to provide some insight into the potential value of enacting regulations, although the data seemed both incomplete and inconclusive. The April 9 staff report can be viewed at the following link: <http://cosweb.ci.shoreline.wa.us/uploads/attachments/cck/Council/Staffreports/2012/Staffreport040912-9b.pdf>.

Given this discussion, there was varying opinion on the Council about whether the City should continue a discussion about enacting plastic carryout bag regulations in Shoreline. Some Councilmembers asked for more definitive research and data to help them better understand the benefits and costs of enacting regulations. Given staff's determination that there is no reliable data available to concretely show the relative value of banning or regulating plastic carryout bags, staff has not provided any further research studies, data or information. Thus, the Council will need to determine if they would like to regulate plastic carryout bags with the information that they have been provided and the research each Councilmember has conducted on their own. It should be noted however that staff does believe that there is at least symbolic value in enacting plastic carryout bag regulations, as regulations provide awareness of consumers' use of carryout bags and also theoretically incentivize the use of reusable bags.

Finally, in a follow up to the April 9 discussion, Shoreline citizens were asked in the 2012 Citizen Satisfaction Survey whether they would like to see plastic bag regulations in Shoreline. Staff has also conducted a survey of businesses in Shoreline to obtain their input on potential regulations and a plastic carryout bag regulatory model, if enacted. Thus, this staff report will provide this stakeholder outreach information along with a follow up discussion about various regulatory models the Council could enact.

STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH:

To better understand stakeholder concerns regarding the potential of carryout bag regulations in Shoreline, staff engaged in a multi-faceted stakeholder outreach effort to garner input from the public and the business community. The following information outlines who staff surveyed and the input received.

City of Shoreline Citizen Satisfaction Survey

Every two years, the City of Shoreline conducts a random sampling survey to measure satisfaction with City services and to help determine community priorities. In 2012, 3,500 surveys were mailed to Shoreline households and 891 were completed, which

exceeded the City's validation goal. This provided a 95% level of confidence with a precision of at least +/- 3.3% for the survey.

For the first time in 2012, the City asked the following question related to plastic carryout bag regulations:

- Should the City of Shoreline Consider a Plastic Bag Ban as Part of its Environmental Sustainability Strategy?

In response to this, 49% of respondents answered 'Yes,' 31% answered 'No,' 17% answered 'Neutral,' and 3% answered 'Don't Know.' The graphical display of these results can be seen in Attachment A to this staff report.

As well, cross tabular data for these results can be seen in Attachment B to this report. Although responses are generally uniform along the various cross tabs, there is some variation for specific demographics. For instance, women are generally more supportive of plastic bag regulations than men, and residents that have lived in Shoreline for a long time are not as supportive as newer residents. Specifically:

- 53.1% of women are supportive of regulations, while just 42.5% of men are.
- 57.3% of residents that have lived in Shoreline from zero to 10 years are supportive of regulations, while just 40.9% of residents that have lived in Shoreline 21 years or longer expressed support.

Business Survey and Shoreline Chamber of Commerce Engagement

Staff also surveyed Shoreline businesses to obtain their opinions on potential plastic carryout bag regulations. A letter explaining the plastic carryout bag business survey (which is attached to this staff report as Attachment C) was mailed to the 200 largest sales tax generating businesses operating in Shoreline. The letter was also provided to the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce, who in turn forwarded it onto their membership. The Chamber did not take an organizational position on this issue. The letter contained a link to an online survey with five questions, which, along with the survey results, is attached to this staff report as Attachment D. The survey link was active from December 10, 2012 to January 4, 2013.

Unfortunately, the response rate for the business survey was low; only 17 business respondents filled out the survey, and nine of these respondents provided specific comments regarding the potential regulations. All of the business respondent comments are also provided in the attachment. The majority of the 17 respondents are retailers and do use plastic carryout bags at their establishment. As well, the majority of respondents chose the preference of 'no ban or fee on plastic carryout bags' as their top choice for potential regulatory models; i.e., the status quo. The second choice of respondents was a ban on plastic carryout bags (with no mandatory fee), and the third choice was a mandatory fee on plastic carryout bags (with no fee on paper).

Northwest Grocery Association

In addition to the business survey, staff spoke with Holly Chisa, Washington Lobbyist at the Northwest Grocery Association (NGA), the trade group representing 'larger

corporate' grocery stores in Washington and Oregon. In Shoreline, the NGA represents Safeway, Quality Food Centers (QFC), and Fred Meyer.

The NGA is supportive of a plastic carryout bag ban, as long as the regulations follow the City of Seattle/City of Bellingham model. This includes:

- Plastic carryout bags must be banned for all retailers, not just grocery stores. Thus, all 'big box' stores (i.e., home depot), drug stores (Bartells, Wallgreens, etc.), and small sole proprietorship businesses must all be regulated.
- Retailers must be able to charge \$0.05 per paper bag issued to customers, and the five cent charge must be kept in its entirety by the retailer.
- The City's ordinance must follow all health codes so that all retailers are able to comply with state law and County public health provisions.

Ms. Chisa stated that the City of Seattle's ordinance is a good model to follow, and that if the City were to adopt an ordinance that followed this model, the NGA would support this ordinance through testimony provided directly to the City Council.

Washington Food Industry Association

Staff also spoke with Jan Gee, President of the Washington Food Industry Association (WFIA.) The WFIA represents the "independent, community-focused grocery industry" in Washington State. In Shoreline, they represent Town and County Markets (Central Market), Haggen, and Thriftway. While the WFIA is not supportive of regulating plastic carryout bags, if a local jurisdiction chooses to regulate plastic carryout bags, the WFIA would like the local jurisdiction to implement the "Seattle Model" (a ban on plastic carryout bags for all retailers plus a mandatory \$0.05 fee on paper carryout bags.)

As well, the WFIA has stated that they, along with their primary sponsor, Representative Joe Fitzgibbon, will introduce legislation in the upcoming legislative session that would enact a model ordinance for all local jurisdictions to follow if they move to regulate plastic carryout bags. The model ordinance would not be a 'statewide ban', but rather a requirement that all jurisdictions enact the same plastic bag regulatory model so that there is consistency across jurisdictions. The proposed model ordinance would follow the Seattle Model, but would differ slightly in the requirement for recycled content in paper bags. The City of Seattle's ordinance currently requires paper bags to be made of at least 40% post-consumer recycled content, whereas the proposed model ordinance would have no requirement for recycled content. The bill, if it becomes law, would also require all jurisdictions that have already passed plastic bag regulation ordinances to pass new ordinances consistent with the proposed model ordinance. The draft bill can be accessed at the following link:

<http://awcnet.org/portals/0/documents/legislative/plasticbagdraftbill.pdf>.

Washington Retail Association

Finally, staff spoke with Mark Johnson, Vice President for Government Affairs, at the Washington Retail Association (WRA.) According to their website, "the WRA represents over 2,800 retail storefronts; our roster includes all types of retailers in all parts of the state, including the largest national chains to the smallest independent businesses." In

Shoreline, their members include Home Depot, Sears, many of the chain drug stores in Shoreline (Bartells and Wallgreens), and numerous local retailers.

The WRA is not supportive of any regulation banning, limiting or taxing plastic carryout bags. The WRA prefers consumer choice and also prefers that consumers reuse and recycle plastic carryout bags. Finally, Mr. Johnson also mentioned his members are not supportive of a “patchwork” approach to carryout bag regulation, and would rather have a national solution or regulatory model.

REGULATORY MODEL DISCUSSION:

During the April 9 plastic carryout bag discussion with Council, a portion of the discussion was dedicated to how other jurisdictions have regulated plastic carryout bags. Attachment B to the April 9 staff report provided a matrix of a few local and national examples of various carryout bag regulations. These models are often broken down into two categories – bans and mandatory fees. While bans have focused exclusively on plastic bags, for the mandatory fees, consumers are still provided the choice to consume plastic and paper bags but fees are charged for their use to try to change consumer behavior.

Given that there are multiple variations of how a regulatory model could be structured, staff has used the models in the survey that was issued to Shoreline businesses to simplify the options into four choices. They are:

1. No ban on plastic carryout bags, but a mandatory fee for plastic carryout bags
2. No ban on plastic carryout bags, but a mandatory fee on plastic and paper carryout bags
3. A ban on plastic carryout bags
4. A ban on plastic carryout bags plus a mandatory fee on paper carryout bags

For reference, City ordinances that implement these models can be found at the following website - <http://plasticbaglaws.org/legislation/state-laws>.

In addition to these regulatory model options, the Council also needs to consider the following other factors of a regulatory model, among other issues:

- What types of retailers would be subject to the regulation, if not all retailers?
- If mandatory fees are employed, what should the fee amount be?
- If a plastic bag ban is employed, should:
 - non-banned bags be required to be made out of certain types of material, such as post-consumer recycled material or non-old growth fiber (for paper bags)?
 - there be exemptions for prepared food and other items?
 - heavier grade plastic bags (2.25 mil or thicker) be allowed?

In reviewing these options, if Council is interested in enacting regulations, staff believes that it is important to provide similar regulations to the jurisdictions that are in close proximity to Shoreline (Seattle and Edmonds) so that both retailers and consumers have a common set of regulations that guide bag usage in our area. As well, given that

both Seattle and Edmonds employ plastic bag bans, staff recommends that the Council enact regulations that help business offset the increased cost that would likely occur from an increase in paper bag use. Although some consumers will likely use reusable cloth or synthetic bags, some will substitute plastic bag usage with paper bags. Allowing retailers to charge for paper bags and keep the fee will help offset these higher bag costs and will also help incentivize reusable bag use. For these reasons, staff recommends that the Council utilize the regulatory model that bans plastic carryout bags and has a mandatory fee on paper carryout bags, similar to the City of Seattle.

Implementation Information

Although additional implementation and enforcement research will need to be conducted if Council is interested in moving regulations forward, in anticipation of this, staff has provided two recent surveys conducted in Seattle about how their regulatory program is working six months in. These include a business survey conducted by Seattle Public Utilities (the entity responsible for ordinance implementation and enforcement in Seattle) and a business and consumer survey conducted by Environment Washington. The findings and survey results are provided at the following links:

- Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)-
<http://www.seattle.gov/util/environmentconservation/myhome/reducereuse/plasticbagban/>
- Environment Washington -
<http://www.environmentwashington.org/sites/environment/files/reports/Cutting%20Down%20on%20Plastic.pdf>

Additionally, staff also spoke with Dick Lilly, staff member at SPU who is responsible for implementation of the plastic bag regulations. Mr. Lilly stated that Seattle's enforcement strategy is complaint-based, and that they have only received a few complaints thus far. As well, given that Seattle's ordinance allows for retailers who do not have other stores outside Seattle (primarily small businesses) to use up their back-inventory of plastic bags, some complaints are likely the result of consumers not understanding that these retailers are not violating Seattle's ordinance. Mr. Lilly explained that it will be a little while before SPU begins to issue citations to businesses given this stipulation in their ordinance. Finally, Mr. Lilly explained that the transition has been generally smooth from an implementation and enforcement standpoint.

NEXT STEPS:

If the Council is interested in moving potential plastic carryout bag regulations forward, the next steps would include:

- Preparing a proposed ordinance
- Drafting an implementation, communication and enforcement plan
- Determination of the regulation start date, enforcement grace period, etc.
- Council discussion and adoption of ordinance

However, in order to begin working on an ordinance, staff needs direction from the Council regarding Council interest in moving regulations forward and content of the regulations.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The resource and financial impacts of regulating plastic carryout bags are unknown at this time. It is possible that there may be an impact on retail sales in Shoreline if the City decides to regulate plastic carryout bags. However, it is unknown what the magnitude of the impacts would be, if any, or if the impacts would be positive or negative. In brief discussions with other local cities that have enacted plastic carryout bag regulations, although not supported by any data, retail sales seem to be unaffected. As well, even if retail sales or retail sales tax dropped during the time regulations were enacted in other communities, although correlated with the enacting of regulations, it would be impossible to determine a direct causal link between the plastic carryout bag regulations and a reduction in retail sales.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff is looking for additional direction from the full Council regarding Council's interest in having staff bring back draft ordinance language that would put in place a regulatory framework for plastic carryout bags provided at retail establishments. If the Council is interested in carryout bag regulations, staff recommends that the Council employ a ban on plastic carryout bags plus a mandatory fee on paper carryout bags, similar to the model used by the City of Seattle.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: 2012 Citizen Satisfaction Survey Results – Plastic Bag Ban

Attachment B: 2012 Citizen Satisfaction Cross Tabular Survey Results – Plastic Bag Ban

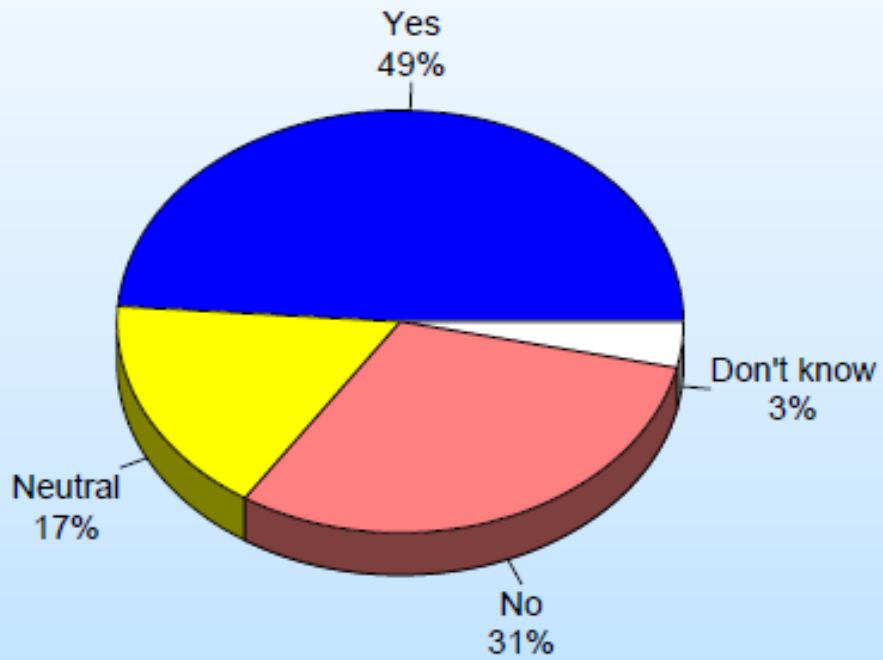
Attachment C: Plastic Carryout Bag Business Survey Letter

Attachment D: Plastic Carryout Bag Business Survey and Survey Results

Attachment A: 2012 Citizen Satisfaction Survey Results – Plastic Bag Ban

Q20. Should the City of Shoreline Consider a Plastic Bag Ban as Part of its Environmental Sustainability Strategy?

by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute DirectionFinder (2012 - Shoreline, WA)

Q20. Should City consider a plastic bag ban	Number	Percent
1=Yes	432	48.8 %
2=Neutral	150	16.9 %
3=No	272	30.7 %
4=Don't know	31	3.5 %
Total	885	100.0 %

Attachment B: 2012 Citizen Satisfaction Survey Results – Plastic Bag Ban – Cross Tabular Data

Q20. Should the City of Shoreline consider a plastic bag ban as part of its environmental sustainability strategy?

N=891

	<u>Q31. What is your zip code</u>			<u>Q32. Do you live east or west of I-5</u>		<u>Q33. Do you live east or west of Aurora Avenue N</u>		<u>Total</u>
	98133	98155	98177	East	West	East	West	
	1	2	3	1	2	1	2	
<u>Q20. Should City consider a plastic bag ban</u>								
1=Yes	47.4%	51.9%	46.8%	50.7%	47.8%	49.8%	48.2%	48.8%
2=Neutral	13.5%	19.9%	18.0%	20.1%	15.2%	17.3%	15.7%	16.9%
3=No	35.3%	25.0%	31.8%	25.5%	33.5%	29.4%	32.5%	30.7%
4=Don't know	3.8%	3.2%	3.4%	3.7%	3.5%	3.6%	3.5%	3.5%

Q20. Should the City of Shoreline consider a plastic bag ban as part of its environmental sustainability strategy?

N=891

	<u>Household Type</u>				<u>Household Size</u>					<u>Total</u>
	10 - 19 (none Under 10)	20 - 54 (none under 20)	55+ (none under 55)		1	2	3	4	5+	
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	
<u>Q20. Should City consider a plastic bag ban</u>										
1=Yes	53.8%	49.6%	49.1%	45.1%	48.9%	47.9%	49.5%	56.5%	34.8%	48.8%
2=Neutral	17.5%	16.8%	16.1%	17.7%	11.3%	19.5%	16.2%	13.6%	24.6%	16.9%
3=No	26.9%	31.4%	29.8%	33.8%	35.3%	29.3%	30.8%	27.2%	36.2%	30.7%
4=Don't know	1.9%	2.2%	5.0%	3.4%	4.5%	3.3%	3.5%	2.7%	4.3%	3.5%

Q20. Should the City of Shoreline consider a plastic bag ban as part of its environmental sustainability strategy?

N=891

	Household Income				Q30. Do you own or rent your residence		Q35. Your gender		Total
	Under \$50,000	\$50,000 - \$74,999	\$75,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000+	Own	Rent	Male	Female	
	1	2	3	4	1	2	1	2	
<u>Q20. Should City consider a plastic bag ban</u>									
1=Yes	45.1%	47.8%	51.8%	52.5%	48.9%	48.1%	42.5%	53.1%	48.8%
2=Neutral	18.9%	18.0%	15.3%	16.5%	17.0%	16.5%	16.9%	17.0%	16.9%
3=No	29.1%	32.2%	31.2%	28.2%	31.0%	29.3%	36.7%	26.7%	30.7%
4=Don't know	6.9%	2.0%	1.8%	2.8%	3.1%	6.0%	3.9%	3.2%	3.5%

Q20. Should the City of Shoreline consider a plastic bag ban as part of its environmental sustainability strategy?

N=891

	Number of years lived in the City of Shoreline						How would you rate the condition of your neighborhood?			Total
	5 or less	6 to 10	11 to 15	16 to 20	21 to 30	31+	Excellent	Good	Average or Below Average	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	
<u>Q20. Should City consider a plastic bag ban</u>										
1=Yes	56.7%	57.9%	46.6%	49.5%	42.9%	38.8%	49.2%	50.4%	46.8%	48.8%
2=Neutral	12.4%	14.5%	23.3%	15.6%	18.2%	19.0%	19.2%	15.2%	18.0%	16.9%
3=No	27.4%	25.5%	25.2%	29.4%	36.5%	38.1%	28.5%	30.7%	32.0%	30.7%
4=Don't know	3.5%	2.1%	4.9%	5.5%	2.4%	4.1%	3.1%	3.7%	3.2%	3.5%



**SHORELINE
CITY COUNCIL**

Keith McGlashan
Mayor

Chris Eggen
Deputy Mayor

Will Hall

Doris McConnell

Chris Roberts

Jesse Salomon

Shari Winstead

TO: Business owner or representative
RE: Plastic carryout bag regulations

You are a member of a select group of Shoreline business owners and operators that are being asked to weigh in on the use of plastic carryout bags. Early in 2013 the Shoreline City Council will consider whether Shoreline will institute regulations to limit the use of plastic carryout bags in grocery and retail stores. If regulations are adopted they would affect carryout bags only; they would not, for example, affect plastic bags used in grocery stores for produce.

Other cities have adopted a variety of regulations to limit the use of plastic bags. Here are four examples that illustrate the range of regulations being used:

- The City of Edmonds, WA, simply banned plastic carryout bags.
- The City of Seattle, WA, banned plastic carryout bags and also required retailers to charge a \$0.05 fee for each paper carryout bag. The fee is kept by the retailer to offset the cost of the more expensive bags.
- The City of Washington, D. C., did not ban plastic carryout bags but mandated a \$0.05 fee for their use. The retailer keeps a small portion of the fee with the rest being applied to local conservation efforts.
- The City of Boulder, CO, requires a \$0.10 fee for the use of any carryout bag, whether plastic or paper. The retailer keeps \$0.04 of the fee while \$0.06 is applied to efforts to promote the use of reusable shopping bags.

The Council wants to ensure that Shoreline businesses have a variety of input opportunities regarding this impending discussion. Therefore, this survey is being sent to a cross-section of the largest Shoreline businesses. **The deadline to complete the survey is Friday, January 4, 2013.** To take the survey, please enter the following information in your web browser and complete the brief steps:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/businessbagsurvey>

Council encourages you to speak at the upcoming Council meetings when the issue is discussed. The first session is scheduled at **City Hall at 7:00 pm on Monday, February 4, 2013.** Since the agenda can change, please check www.shorelinewa.gov for the latest agenda. You can also provide feedback for this—or any other—topic using the Council Contact Form on the City's website.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Dan Eernissee, Economic Development Manager
deernissee@shorelinewa.gov (206) 801-2218

Plastic Carryout Bag Business Survey

Welcome

Early in 2013 the Shoreline City Council will consider whether Shoreline will institute regulations to limit the use of plastic carryout bags in grocery and retail stores. If regulations are adopted they would affect carryout bags only; they would not, for example, affect bags used in grocery stores for produce.

Other cities have adopted a variety of regulations to limit the use of plastic bags. Here are four examples that illustrate the range of regulations being used:

- The City of Edmonds simply banned plastic carryout bags.
- The City of Seattle banned plastic carryout bags and also required retailers to charge a \$0.05 fee for each paper carryout bag. The fee is kept by the retailer to offset the cost of the more expensive bags.
- The City of Washington, D. C., did not ban plastic carryout bags but mandated a \$0.05 fee for their use. The retailer keeps a small portion of the fee with the rest being applied to local conservation efforts.
- The City of Boulder, CO, requires a \$0.10 fee for the use of any carryout bag, whether plastic or paper. The retailer keeps \$0.04 of the fee while \$0.06 is applied to efforts to promote the use of reusable shopping bags.

The Council wants to ensure that the business community has a variety of opportunities for input regarding this impending discussion. Therefore, this survey is being conducted with a cross-section of Shoreline businesses. Please complete this survey by January 4th, 2013.

Survey

1. Do you use plastic carryout bags to package products sold to your customers?

- Yes
- No

2. Which category best describes your business?

- Retailer
- Grocer
- Restaurant
- None of the above

Plastic Carryout Bag Business Survey

3. Please rank the following in order of your preference:

	First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice	Fourth Choice	Fifth Choice
No ban or fee on plastic carryout bags	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
No ban on plastic carryout bags, but a mandatory fee for plastic carryout bags	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
No ban on plastic carryout bags, but a mandatory fee on plastic and paper carryout bags	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A ban on plastic carryout bags	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A ban on plastic carryout bags plus a mandatory fee on paper carryout bags	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. Would you like to communicate anything further to the City of Shoreline related to the potential plastic carryout bag regulations?

5. Optional information:

Name

Business name

Contact information

Thank You

The City Council encourages business owners and operators to speak at the upcoming Council meetings when the issue is discussed, starting on February 4. However, we encourage you to check the business agenda as they are posted at least one week prior to each Monday night meeting at <http://shorelinewa.gov/index.aspx?page=71>.



You can also provide feedback for this, or any, topic to the City Council using the Council Contact Form on the City's website - <http://shorelinewa.gov/index.aspx?recordid=10&page=36> - as well as agenda topics prior to any Council meeting - <http://shorelinewa.gov/index.aspx?recordid=20&page=696>.

Thank you very much for your time and input on our questionnaire.




Plastic Carryout Bag Business Survey



1. Do you use plastic carryout bags to package products sold to your customers?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		64.7%	11
No		35.3%	6
answered question			17
skipped question			0

2. Which category best describes your business?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Retailer		70.6%	12
Grocer		5.9%	1
Restaurant		0.0%	0
None of the above		23.5%	4
answered question			17
skipped question			0

3. Please rank the following in order of your preference:

	First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice	Fourth Choice	Fifth Choice	Rating Average	Response Count
No ban or fee on plastic carryout bags	66.7% (10)	0.0% (0)	6.7% (1)	6.7% (1)	20.0% (3)	2.13	15
No ban on plastic carryout bags, but a mandatory fee for plastic carryout bags	0.0% (0)	38.5% (5)	30.8% (4)	15.4% (2)	15.4% (2)	3.08	13
No ban on plastic carryout bags, but a mandatory fee on plastic and paper carryout bags	8.3% (1)	0.0% (0)	41.7% (5)	33.3% (4)	16.7% (2)	3.50	12
A ban on plastic carryout bags	14.3% (2)	42.9% (6)	7.1% (1)	28.6% (4)	7.1% (1)	2.71	14
A ban on plastic carryout bags plus a mandatory fee on paper carryout bags	25.0% (3)	8.3% (1)	8.3% (1)	8.3% (1)	50.0% (6)	3.50	12
answered question							16
skipped question							1

4. Would you like to communicate anything further to the City of Shoreline related to the potential plastic carryout bag regulations?

	Response Count
	9
answered question	9
skipped question	8

Page 2, Q4. Would you like to communicate anything further to the City of Shoreline related to the potential plastic carryout bag regulations?

1	I will move my business and tax revenues out of your jurisdiction.	Dec 20, 2012 2:06 PM
2	This is a silly way to approach this issue. There is easier and better ways to really fix this problem. Collecting a fee and still using the bags is not solving anything. Instead of asking all businesses to stop using or charging for the bags, the city should influence businesses like Costco, Sam's Club and others like them to stop selling the so called hazardous plastic bags and start selling biodegradable plastic bags. So in a nut shell get the wholesalers to start selling biodegradable bags and we won't have this silly debate.	Dec 20, 2012 1:37 PM
3	What ever route is taken, please adopt help keep the program simple and either adopt the City of Seattle or the City of Edmonds plans and not create a whole new system of fees and how where they will go.	Dec 19, 2012 10:18 AM
4	no	Dec 17, 2012 8:00 PM
5	Yes. I'd like to discuss the following: How the paper bags currently used are part of a branding strategy, our plans to offering a reusable bag, the slow process and expense to create/administer a fee.	Dec 17, 2012 1:14 PM
6	Paper bags (\$0.12) cost more than plastic (\$0.025). Since a ban on plastic will drive some people to paper as opposed to reusables, the cost to businesses can be significant. This is why Central Market Shoreline prefers a ban plus a fee on plastic, like was done in Seattle and on Bainbridge Island.	Dec 17, 2012 10:17 AM
7	As an electronic retailer, we do not use bags, but do use packaging made from recycled materials that are also recyclable.	Dec 17, 2012 9:28 AM
8	It's sad to see the lockstep following of liberal west coast governments. Everyone of these small taxes adds up to the overwhelming burden that modern governments place on businesses and citizens. It's very sad and very predictable. I hope and pray you'll resist the pressure.	Dec 14, 2012 3:16 PM
9	What's the point? What's the problem that this is intended to cure? How about leaving well enough alone? No need to follow the busybodies in Edmonds, Seattle, Washington, and Boulder.	Dec 14, 2012 10:08 AM