

1 [Regulations to Ensure that Reusable Bags are Suitably Durable and Do Not Contribute to the  
2 Landfill Waste Stream]

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4 **Resolution requesting Director of Department of the Environment, under the**  
5 **authority of Section 1704, of Chapter 17, of the San Francisco Municipal Environment**  
6 **Code, to promulgate new, or amend existing, regulations to ensure that reusable bags**  
7 **are suitably durable and do not contribute to the landfill waste stream.**

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9 WHEREAS, Checkout bags use increasingly scarce resources including energy, and  
10 create pollution from production through disposal; and,

11 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco adopted the Plastic Bag Reduction  
12 Ordinance (Environment Code Chapter 17) in 2007; and

13 WHEREAS, The intention of the Ordinance was to reduce the use of single-use plastic  
14 bags by banning them at supermarkets and drugstores; and,

15 WHEREAS, The Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance allows stores to give away reusable  
16 bags, which are defined as including any plastic bag at least 2.5 mil thick; and

17 WHEREAS, This definition has resulted in the unintended consequence of some stores  
18 distributing 2.5 mil thick polyethylene plastic bags, which may not be suitably durable, to  
19 customers for free; and,

20 WHEREAS, Plastic bags provided for free at checkout are usually perceived as  
21 disposable products who consumers then continue to treat as single-use plastic bags being  
22 used on average for just a few minutes, thus creating an impediment to increasing bag reuse;  
23 and,

1           WHEREAS, Plastic bags, even those composed of post-consumer waste, are neither  
2 recyclable in the blue bin stream nor compostable and are currently major contaminants in  
3 San Francisco's recycling and composting programs; and,

4           WHEREAS, Many of the offices of the members of the Board of Supervisors have and  
5 continue to receive complaints from the general public regarding the thicker plastic bags  
6 which are perceived as violating the Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance; and,

7           WHEREAS, The Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance allows the Director of the  
8 Department of the Environment, after a public hearing, to adopt or amend guideline, rules and  
9 regulation in order to implement the Ordinance; now, therefore, be it

10          RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests the Director of the Department of  
11 the Environment to promulgate new, or amend existing, regulations to ensure that reusable  
12 bags are suitably durable, and do not contribute to the landfill waste stream.

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City and County of San Francisco

Tails  
Resolution

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 100462

Date Passed: April 13, 2010

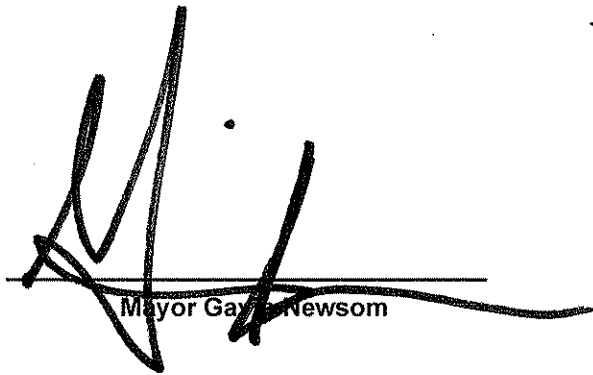
Resolution requesting the Director of Department of Environment, under the authority of Section 1704, of Chapter 17, of the San Francisco Municipal Environment Code, to promulgate new, or amend existing, regulations to ensure that reusable bags are suitably durable and do not contribute to the landfill waste stream.

April 13, 2010 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED


Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Avalos, Campos, Chiu, Chu, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Mar, Maxwell and Mirkarimi

File No. 100462

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/13/2010 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



Mayor Gavin Newsom



Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

4/22/2010  
Date Approved