

Resolution No.

A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE CITY OF URBANA DIRECT STAFF TO REVIEW AND PRESENT A PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHING A ~~SINGLE-USE~~CARRYOUT BAG FEE

Whereas, the City of Urbana established the Sustainability Advisory Commission (SAC) in May 2008 (Sec. 2-91) “to assist the Mayor and City Council in identifying the highest priorities for city government and citizens to achieve sustainable management of natural resources”; and

Whereas, the SAC finds that ~~single-use~~carryout bags are produced in great quantity, recycled in small quantity, and frequently become litter blighting the landscape of the community; and

Whereas, the ~~United States Environmental Protection Agency EPA (2022)~~ estimates that the U.S. generated 4.2 million ~~pounds-tons~~ of ~~plastic bags, sacks and wraps plastic bag~~ waste ~~in in~~ 2018, with only 10% of ~~those that material~~ being recycled, ~~3.2 millions pounds of plastic bag waste going to landfills each year, and many bags becoming environmental litter~~; and

Whereas, the City of Chicago implemented a ~~disposable~~carryout bag tax in 2017 and partnered with the University of Chicago Urban Labs to conduct research which concluded that the tax resulted in a 40% reduction of ~~disposable~~carryout bag use; and

Whereas, Illinois municipalities, including ~~but not limited to~~, City of Woodstock, City of Edwardsville, City of Evanston, City of Oak Park, and City of Batavia have enacted ~~single-use~~carryout bag fees or taxes; and

Whereas, ~~on April 11, 2022 the City Council approved a resolution establishing Mayor/ City Council Strategic Goals 2022-2023 which the City of Urbana Council and Mayor have a current strategic includes a~~ goal to explore a bag tax and green revolving fund ~~in the goal of sustainable infrastructure, and the City of Urbana strives to be a leader in sustainability and innovation,~~

Now therefore, be it resolved the Sustainability Advisory Commission of the City of Urbana recommends that the Mayor direct staff to explore and draft a proposal to establish a ~~disposable~~carryout bag ~~tax or~~ fee in the City of Urbana, with the following recommendations and considerations:

Section 1: that the bag fee or tax be set at approximately 5-10 cents per ~~disposable~~carryout bag, with ~~disposable~~carryout bags being clearly defined in the ordinance and public notices, and consideration given to including 1-2 cents per bag for retailers to retain; and

Section 2: that the City establish policies and capacity to carry out this ~~a disposable carryout~~ bag ~~tax~~/fee ordinance, including, but not limited to, public notification, partnership on surveying and research, enforcing the tax/fee on wholesale retail purchase or otherwise paid tax; and

Section 3: that the City explore establishing a green revolving fund to collect all ~~disposable carryout~~ bag fees to invest in other sustainability related efforts; and

Section 4: that the City take specific efforts to make a ~~smooth-workable~~ and equitable transition to a ~~disposable carryout~~ bag fee/tax, including, but not limited to, public awareness, a tax/fee waiver for EBT purchases, providing free durable reusable bags made of recyclable materials in key areas and in the early stages of the tax/fee implementation.

Section 5: that the City promotes the sale and use of reusable bags that are made from recycled materials. Studies have shown that using reusable bags made of new materials (e.g., cotton) have a large environmental footprint.