

December 13, 2011

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS YAROSLAVSKY AND RIDLEY-THOMAS

Too often, single-use plastic carryout bags are seen littering our communities and the waterways that lead to our ocean. According to the Department of Public Works, approximately six billion plastic carryout bags are consumed in Los Angeles County every year. These bags contribute significantly to litter and environmental degradation, while clogging our storm drains.

The Board took decisive action to combat the proliferation of plastic bag litter by adopting an ordinance banning plastic carryout bags. On July 1, 2011, the first phase of the ban went into effect at supermarkets and large retail stores with a pharmacy. Effective January 1, 2012, approximately 700 grocery stores, convenience stores, food marts, and pharmacies throughout unincorporated Los Angeles County will also stop providing single-use plastic carryout bags. The ban on single-use plastic carryout bags will substantially reduce litter in our streets and waterways, protect the environment, and assist with the County's efforts to reduce the negative impact of single-use plastic bags.

MOTION

MOLINA _____
RIDLEY-THOMAS _____
KNABE _____
ANTONOVICH _____
YAROSLAVSKY _____

We need to continue raising awareness about this issue by encouraging residents, businesses, and County employees to remember to bring reusable bags when they shop.

In conjunction with the second phase of the bag ban, Public Works in partnership with numerous supermarkets and environmental organizations is implementing an educational campaign, which kicks off with Heal the Bay's "A Day without a Bag" on December 15, 2011. This is a great opportunity for us to encourage all residents to help prevent litter in their communities and commit to keeping Los Angeles County beautiful by using alternatives to single-use plastic carryout bags.

The campaign will feature the Department of Public Works' "Eco-Elf Patrol" which will visit stores, community events, and unincorporated libraries to distribute a limited quantity of reusable bags and enter residents into a sweepstakes. In addition, the www.aboutthebag.com website and Twitter page will provide valuable resources for cities, residents, and store owners to help increase awareness on the environmental impact of single-use plastic carryout bags and also allow residents an additional means to enter the sweepstakes. This multi-faceted campaign highlights the County's ongoing environmental programs, which are free to all residents in the County.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim December 15, 2011, "A Day without a Bag" throughout the County of Los Angeles and celebrate a plastic bag-free Los Angeles County; and
2. Encourage all shoppers to take their reusable bags every time they shop to avoid paying \$0.10 for a paper bag; and
3. Encourage cities, grocery stores, food marts, convenience stores, pharmacies,

other retailers, and residents to utilize the resources available on the www.aboutthebag.com website.

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

**PROCLAIM “A DAY WITHOUT A BAG” THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY OF
LOS ANGELES AND CELEBRATE A PLASTIC BAG FREE LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

WHEREAS, each year up to six billion single-use plastic carryout bags are used in Los Angeles County, and less than five percent of single-use plastic carryout bags are recycled in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, single-use plastic carryout bags contribute disproportionately to litter maintenance costs, clogging storm drains, and tangling machinery; and,

WHEREAS, each year, the County spends approximately \$24 million to clean up litter including single-use plastic carryout bags; and,

WHEREAS, reusable bags contribute towards environmental sustainability over single-use plastic carryout bags as well as significantly reduce plastic bag litter problems for Los Angeles County streets, beaches, and the marine environment; and,

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2010, the Board of Supervisors took action to phase out the use of single-use plastic bags at County operations and ban single-use plastic carryout bags in unincorporated Los Angeles County effective July 1, 2011, for large supermarkets and grocery stores, and on January 1, 2012, for smaller stores; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Los Angeles has invited local retailers and environmental organizations to participate and take a leadership role in promoting public awareness regarding the benefits of using reusable bags; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works has launched an educational campaign utilizing an “Eco-Elf Patrol” to inform County residents and the general public of the second phase of the ban on single-use plastic carryout bags, distribute and encourage the use of reusable bags to avoid having to pay \$0.10 for paper bags; and enter residents into a sweepstakes for using their reusable bags and celebrating a plastic bag free Los Angeles County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles hereby proclaims December 15, 2011, “A Day without A Bag” throughout the County of Los Angeles and celebrates a plastic bag free Los Angeles County.

The foregoing resolution was adopted on the 13th day of December, 2011, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles.