



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Dennis J. Carlone
City Councillor

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

December 11, 2014

To: The Honorable, the City Council

From: City Councillor Dennis Carlone

Re: Plastic Bag Ban

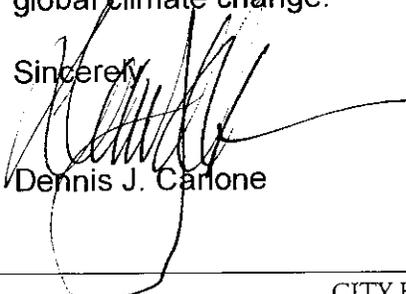
Dear Fellow Council Members,

As a lifelong environmentalist, and in my capacity as Co-Chair of the Ordinance Committee, I am writing to let you know of my intention to call for a vote on the Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance at our final meeting of the year, on Monday, December 15, at 5:30 p.m. in the Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room, 459 Broadway.

The purpose of Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance is to protect our waterways, reduce waste, and protect the marine environment. Plastic checkout bags should be outlawed because they are typically made from a polyethylene that is not biodegradable. Instead, the bags break into small pieces, called microplastics, which are consumed by animals and litter the ground. The bags have been shown to release toxins into the soil and water, threatening the food chain and presenting a serious danger to both humans and animals.

Since 2007, the City Council has submitted no less than eight policy orders to advance the goal of banning plastic bags. With leadership from former City Councillor and current State Representative Marjorie Decker, and with support from the Massachusetts Sierra Club, the Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance is now before us after years of study and public discussion. As other municipalities and states move to enact plastic bag bans of their own, the time has come for the City of Cambridge to be a leader in the effort to change the "single-use, throwaway culture" that contributes to the problem of global climate change.

Sincerely,


Dennis J. Carlone