

CF# 11-1531

LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD LAND TRUST

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Council Member Jan Perry
Ninth District Neighborhood City Hall
4301 S. Central Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90011

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Alina Bokde

SUPPORT: Ban of Single Use Bag Issuance by Retail Establishments in Los Angeles

Dear Council Member Perry,

The Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LANLT), leading the way to healthier, safer and stronger communities by creating green and recreational spaces in underserved neighborhoods, respectfully urges you to support Council Member Koretz's proposed ordinance restricting the distribution of single-use bags in Los Angeles.

We all know how much of a blight plastic and paper bags are in District 9. *What most people don't realize that they currently pay twice for these supposedly free plastic and paper bags.*

The first cost they pay is embedded by stores in the cost of groceries. According to the L.A. County Board of Supervisors Staff Report from August 2007, "An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County," this cost, on average, is \$18 per year to use plastic bags and \$30 per year to use paper bags. Reusable bags, by comparison, are available at a one-time cost, for less than \$1 each. Even six to ten bags, for larger families, will still cost far less than \$18. We do not believe small stores nor low-income or elderly people will be adversely affected by the proposed measure.

The second cost people pay for single-use bags is included in their taxes to help clean up bag blight from our neighborhoods and storm drains. For instance, Californians use an estimated 12 billion plastic bags per year. According to CalRecycle, only three percent of these bags are actually recycled. The rest end up in landfills or as litter. Los Angeles, along with other municipalities statewide, spends more than \$25 million each year to clean up plastic single-use bags from public places, storm drains, and from our waste stream. Local taxpayer dollars are also spent to comply with Stormwater Permit requirements and other standards in communities with "trash-impaired" waterways as defined under the federal Clean Water Act.

Growing Healthier Communities through Urban Parks & Gardens



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We at LANLT believe those clean up dollars could be much better spent on economic and neighborhood development, creating jobs and opportunities among our underrepresented constituencies. We therefore support Council Member Koretz's proposed ordinance to phase out the use of both types of single-use grocery bags and to encourage the use of reusable bags.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alina Bokde".

Alina Bokde, Executive Director
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
315 West 9th Street, Suite 1002
Los Angeles, CA 90015