

June 17, 2013

Councilmen Bernard Parks
City Hall Office
200 N. spring St. Rm 460
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmen Bernard Parks,

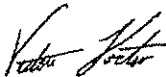
My name is Victoria Fortson and I am the owner of Right Choice Caribbean Market.

As you know, the Los Angeles City Council is considering banning plastic bags and adding a 10-cent tax on paper grocery bags city-wide. Council File No. 11-1531, was introduced by Paul Koretz, and is being voted on in the City Council June 19, 2013. If passed, this law could have a serious, negative impact on consumers and store owners such as myself.

Los Angeles' small business community is an important part of the city. This ordinance ignores the concerns of small businesses and imposes unacceptable burdens on "mom and pop" shops, which are the backbone of our local economy. This burden includes the additional cost of purchasing more paper bags, which would require me to pass this cost on to my customers, some of whom may be on fixed incomes, elderly, or poor.

Councilmen Parks, thank you for standing up for our interest and opposing this bill. If Los Angeles wants to attract business and expand growth, it cannot continue adding red tape, especially in already lean economic times. This ordinance that bans the use of plastic bags and requires businesses to charge customers 10-cents for each single-use paper bag will harm my business.

Sincerely,



Victoria Fortson,

Right Choice Caribbean Market

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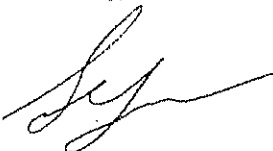
My name is Sam Yeboah and I am the owner of African Produce Market.

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Sincerely,



Sam Yeboah

African Produce Market