

10-0002-565

RESOLUTION

JUN 18 2010

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, approximately 6 billion single-use plastic bags are used in Los Angeles County each year, and few of them are recycled; and

WHEREAS, single-use plastic bags often end up as litter that pollutes Los Angeles' streetscapes, waterways, wetlands and beaches; and

WHEREAS, single-use paper bags, while generally less damaging to the environment than plastic bags, also contribute to environmental problems, including deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions, and additional waterborne wastes; and

WHEREAS, reusable bags are by far the most sustainable, least environmentally harmful alternative to single-use bags, and widespread use of reusable bags would save trees, water, and natural resources while reducing air and water pollution; and

WHEREAS, currently pending in the state legislature is AB 1998 (Brownley), which would prohibit supermarkets, convenience stores, and large retail stores from providing most single-use bags to consumers at the point of sale; and

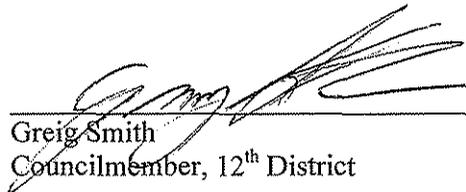
WHEREAS, the bill would also require retailers to make reusable bags available to consumers at a reasonable cost, and would also only allow a retailer to make a recycled-paper single-use bag available to consumers upon receipt of a fee not less than 5 cents. Unlike previous plastic bag efforts, The California Grocer's Association is actively supporting the bill for its potential to create a uniform, statewide program; and

WHEREAS, while the bill also pre-empts any local regulations on bags, and while the City would ordinarily be opposed to any state pre-emption of local control, having a state-run program that can deal with the use of reusable and single-use bags throughout the state will significantly help the environment both in Los Angeles and in surrounding regions, while relieving City of Los Angeles staff of program administration and enforcement duties; and

WHEREAS, such legislation could prove pivotal in reducing the litter and pollution that is generated through the use of billions of single-use bags in California each year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2009-2010 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 1998 (Brownley), which would prohibit supermarkets, convenience stores, and large retail stores from providing single-use bags to consumers at the point of sale except upon payment of a fee, and which would require those retailers to make reusable bags available for purchase as well; and REQUEST that amendments be considered that would: 1) limit the local preemption to only those bags specifically banned by the bill; and 2) continue the in-store bag collection that was established by AB 2449 (Levine).

PRESENTED BY:


Greig Smith
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY:


Tony Cardenas

ORIGINAL

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