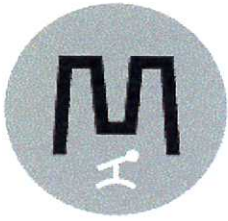


**MURRAY**  
CITY COUNCIL

**Plastic Bag  
Workshop  
May 14, 2019**



**Murray City Municipal Council**  
**Notice of Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 14, 2019**  
Murray City Center  
5025 South State Street, Murray, Utah 84107

**City Council Workshop**

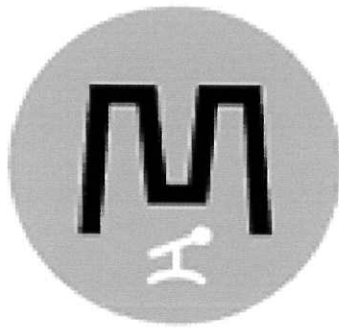
**Agenda**

**6:30 p.m. Council Chambers**

1. Welcome/Introductions                      Dave Nicponski, Council Chair
2. Discussion on Single Use Plastic Bags
  - a. Mark Hooyer, Executive Director, Trans Jordan Landfill
  - b. Pam Roberts, Executive Director, Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District
  - c. Diane Turner, Murray City Council District 4
  - d. Council Comments
3. Citizen Comments  
Comments will be limited to three minutes, step to the microphone, state your name and city of residence, and fill out the required form.
4. Adjournment

On Thursday, May 9, 2019, at 9:00 a.m., a copy of the foregoing notice was posted in conspicuous view in the front foyer of the Murray City Center, Murray, Utah. Copies of this notice were provided for the news media in the Office of the City Recorder. A copy of this notice was posted on Murray City's internet website [www.murray.utah.gov](http://www.murray.utah.gov), and the state noticing website at <http://pmn.utah.gov>.

Janet M. Lopez  
Council Executive Director  
Murray City Municipal Council



**MURRAY**  
CITY COUNCIL

# Power Point Presentation

# Murray City Council Single-Use Plastic Bag Discussion



Murray City has an obligation to protect the public health, safety and welfare of residents and visitors. The City seeks to promote policies which will preserve and conserve natural resources, and promote a cleaner, healthier environment.



# Disposable Single Use Plastic Bags



Pollute the environment



Litter our streams, lakes, landscapes and highways



Adversely impact wildlife and water quality



Clog storm drains



Whirl around landfills





# Disposable Single Use Plastic Bags

- 🌳 Negatively impact recycling equipment
- 🌳 Are a source of recycling contamination
- 🌳 Are seldom recycled
- 🌳 Made of nonrenewable resources – commonly petroleum and natural gas





The Murray City Council is  
considering an ordinance to prohibit  
distribution of single use plastic bags.



Ordinance Details





## Approved Carryout Bags

Nothing in the ordinance precludes a retail store from making reusable bags available for sale to customers or from customers using their own reusable bags.

If a retail establishment provides a checkout bag to customers, it must be:

- Reusable



- Recyclable Paper Bag



- Compostable







## Reusable Bag means:

- At least 3.0 mils with a capacity of 125 or more uses
- Able to carry 22 or more pounds over a distance of 175 feet
- Capable of being washed so as to clean and disinfect multiple times







## Recyclable Paper Bag means:

- 100% recyclable, including the handles
- Contains at least 40% post-consumer recycled content
- Displays the words "Recyclable" and "made from 40% post-consumer recycled content" in a visible manner







## Compostable Plastic Bag means:

- Conforms to the current ASTM D6400 standard
- Certified and labeled as above standard
- Capable of undergoing biological decomposition consistent with known compostable materials





## Single use checkout bag does not include:

- Pharmacists bag for prescription drugs
- Newspaper bags
- Door hanger bags
- Laundry dry cleaning bags
- Bags sold in packages





## Single use checkout bag does not include:

- Packages containing multiple bags intended for food storage, garbage, pet waste or yard waste
- Bags used by consumers inside retail establishments to package bulk items such as produce, nuts, grains, candy or small hardware items to take to the point of sale or checkout area
- Bags that wrap frozen foods or meat, fish or poultry
- Bags that wrap flowers, potted plants or items with moisture



## Penalty for Non Compliance

First Offense:

- Written Warning

Second Offense:

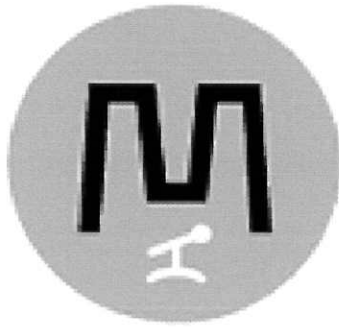
- Infraction
- Up to a \$750 fine







Questions?



**MURRAY**  
CITY COUNCIL

# Citizen Responses



Janet Lopez

---

**From:** Dale Cox  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 11:07 AM  
**To:** Janet Lopez  
**Subject:** Fwd: Plastic Bag Discussion

I'm out of town still

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Marta Nielsen"  
**Date:** May 2, 2019 at 10:23:44 AM MDT  
**To:** [dale.cox@murray.utah.gov](mailto:dale.cox@murray.utah.gov)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bag Discussion

Hello Councilman Cox,

I live in your district, and am unable to attend the workshop tonight as my two children have Murray Rec soccer games at the same time.

I strongly support the ban on single use plastic bags. It just makes sense, and could be a huge gift to our children and future generations. It may be inconvenient at first, but people are adaptable and will get used to it.

--

Marta M. Nielsen  
[mnelsonnielsen@gmail.com](mailto:mnelsonnielsen@gmail.com)  
801.879.3224

Janet Lopez

---

**Subject:** FW: Murray City Plastic Bag Meeting

**From:** jeri <  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:20 AM  
**To:** Janet Lopez <jlopez@murray.utah.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Murray City Plastic Bag Meeting

I will try to attend but on the chance that I can't please note that I am 100% in favor of this.

---

**From:** Janet Lopez <jlopez@murray.utah.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 5:05 PM  
**To:** **Subject:** Murray City Plastic Bag Meeting

Hi Friends and Neighbors,

The Murray City Council is considering an ordinance to ban single use plastic bags. I would like to extend an invitation to anyone who is interested to participate in our public meeting on May 14, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Murray City Center Council Chambers. Presentations will be made and public comments taken. Please see attached flyer.

*Diane Turner*

District 4  
Murray City Council  
[Diane.turner@murray.utah.gov](mailto:Diane.turner@murray.utah.gov)

*Jan Lopez*

Murray City Council Executive Director  
Murray City Corporation/5025 South State St.  
Murray City, UT 84107  
801-264-2622 Office  
801-550-4527 Cell  
[jlopez@murray.utah.gov](mailto:jlopez@murray.utah.gov)



Janet Lopez

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**From:** Janet Lopez  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:03 AM  
**To:** 'Dini Droguett'  
**Subject:** RE: Murray City Plastic Bag Meeting

Dini,

Thank you for your support. The ordinance does mention the compostable plastic bag that conforms to the current ASTM D6400 and breaks down at a rate consistent with known compostable materials.

*Jan Lopez*

Murray City Council Executive Director  
Murray City Corporation/5025 South State St.  
Murray City, UT 84107  
801-264-2622 Office  
801-550-4527 Cell  
jlopez@murray.utah.gov

**From:** Dini Droguett  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:24 PM  
**To:** Janet Lopez <jlopez@murray.utah.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Murray City Plastic Bag Meeting

We have a commitment that evening but I'm all for it! There is such a thing as biodegradable plastic type material. Maybe someone can look into that. For bags and straws (I have the straws already).

Good luck!

Dini

Sent from my iPhone

On May 1, 2019, at 5:05 PM, Janet Lopez <jlopez@murray.utah.gov> wrote:

Hi Friends and Neighbors,

The Murray City Council is considering an ordinance to ban single use plastic bags. I would like to extend an invitation to anyone who is interested to participate in our public meeting on May 14, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Murray City Center Council Chambers. Presentations will be made and public comments taken. Please see attached flyer.

*Diane Turner*

District 4  
Murray City Council  
[Diane.turner@murray.utah.gov](mailto:Diane.turner@murray.utah.gov)

*Jan Lopez*

Murray City Council Executive Director  
Murray City Corporation/5025 South State St.  
Murray City, UT 84107  
801-264-2622 Office

**From:** Jim Brass  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 11:30 AM  
**To:** Janet Lopez  
**Subject:** Fwd: Plastic Grocery Bags

Jim

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Preston Socha"  
**Date:** May 3, 2019 at 9:50:26 AM HST  
**To:** "[jim.brass@murray.utah.gov](mailto:jim.brass@murray.utah.gov)" <[jim.brass@murray.utah.gov](mailto:jim.brass@murray.utah.gov)>  
**Subject:** Plastic Grocery Bags  
**Reply-To:** Preston Socha <[prestonsocha@yahoo.com](mailto:prestonsocha@yahoo.com)>

Jim,

I want to applaud the council for trying to tackle the issue of plastic bags, however just making new laws may not be the best approach. City government is limited in means to make change, however in this case there may be a way to make change, help the common good, and save some backlash.

To be honest, I don't know the answer, however the grocery stores do know the answer. It may be best to form a committee and invite representatives from both large grocers and small stores to come and discuss options.

A possible solutions to get the creative juices flowing:

1. Grocers voluntarily switch to paper bags and use it as an environment marketing promotion. "Leading the way in the community, protecting our kids!" Or something like that. Turn it into a positive.
2. Grocers offer discount reusable bags. Work with the city to find a cheap means to acquire in large quantity with fun City logos, funny sayings like "Murray Christmas" or other creative options.

Punitive approaches do work, however the unintended and unforeseen consequences can be worse than the original problem. The harder positive approach often has greater positive unforeseen consequences. Working with the people who can make a difference rather than just punishing them for being human is a higher form of government and leadership.

I hope that you take this seriously and consider this option.

Sincerely,

Preston Socha



Janet Lopez

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**From:** Dennis Dickerson  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 1:14 PM  
**To:** Janet Lopez  
**Subject:** Re: Murray City Plastic Bag Meeting

Jan and Diane,

Thank you for the notice. I appreciate the updates that are sent to me quarterly. Also. I would like to take issue with the flyer that was attached.

In addition to the one-sided view that the poster takes, a statement that these bags "remain in the environment for hundreds of years" is a projection and not fact. The bags that are proposed to be banned came into existence in 1965 so the statement is false. Attaching a notice of the meeting including what is being considered is totally appropriate. Attaching a very biased flyer is not and seems to say that the hearing is only for show, public input does not matter and the decision is made. You may want to consider that in future correspondence.

Dennis Dickerson

On Wed, May 1, 2019 at 5:05 PM Janet Lopez <[jlopez@murray.utah.gov](mailto:jlopez@murray.utah.gov)> wrote:

Hi Friends and Neighbors,

The Murray City Council is considering an ordinance to ban single use plastic bags. I would like to extend an invitation to anyone who is interested to participate in our public meeting on May 14, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Murray City Center Council Chambers. Presentations will be made and public comments taken. Please see attached flyer.

*Diane Turner*

District 4

Murray City Council

[Diane.turner@murray.utah.gov](mailto:Diane.turner@murray.utah.gov)

*Jan Lopez*

Murray City Council Executive Director

Murray City Corporation/5025 South State St.

Murray City, UT 84107

801-264-2622 Office

Janet Lopez

---

**From:** Dale Cox  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 4:17 PM  
**To:** Janet Lopez  
**Subject:** Fwd: Plastic bags

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Bruce Cutler" <[Bruce.Cutler@murray.utah.gov](mailto:Bruce.Cutler@murray.utah.gov)>  
**Date:** May 3, 2019 at 3:10:00 PM MDT  
**To:** "[Dale.Cox@murray.utah.gov](mailto:Dale.Cox@murray.utah.gov)" <[Dale.Cox@murray.utah.gov](mailto:Dale.Cox@murray.utah.gov)>  
**Subject:** Plastic bags

Dale

I read where Diane wants to ban plastic bags in Murray. Please do not support the plastic bag prohibition.

Thanks for your service.  
Bruce

Sent from my iPhone  
Please excuse any keyboard typos



Janet Lopez

---

**From:** Jim Brass  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 2:01 PM  
**To:** Janet Lopez  
**Subject:** Fwd: Plastic bag legislation in Murray  
**Attachments:** image4cbcff.JPG; ATT00001.htm; image87ba04.JPG; ATT00002.htm; imagec084b0.PNG; ATT00003.htm; image50c0c3.PNG; ATT00004.htm; image245ac8.PNG; ATT00005.htm; Plastic Bag Factsheet.pdf; ATT00006.htm; APBA Letter to Murray City Council 5.8.2019.pdf; ATT00007.htm

Jim

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Erin Graziani  
**Date:** May 8, 2019 at 9:40:21 AM HST  
**To:** "[jim.brass@murray.utah.gov](mailto:jim.brass@murray.utah.gov)" <[jim.brass@murray.utah.gov](mailto:jim.brass@murray.utah.gov)>  
**Subject:** Plastic bag legislation in Murray

Dear Council Member Brass,

I am reaching out on behalf of the American Progressive Bag Alliance (APBA), which represents our country's plastic bag recyclers and manufacturers. I want to offer our organization as a resource to you as the Murray City Council considers a plastic bag ban, which has historically resulted in negative, unintended consequences.

As the Council weighs its options, please feel free to review the attached factsheet and letter plus the quick facts below for more information. We are happy to be a part of the conversation and help inform Murray's approach based on our experience with other localities that have passed plastic bag regulations across the U.S.

- Plastic retail bags are 100% recyclable and have a 77.7% reuse rate. When looking at the [full lifecycle of a reusable shopping bag](#), they take far more resources to produce, aren't recyclable at all, and often end up in a landfill anyways. Plastic retail bags are quick and efficient to produce, and they can be dropped off at [nearby recycling locations](#) (including many Smiths, Walmart, and Target locations).
- [Per EPA](#), plastic retail bags make up 0.3% of the nation's solid waste. Therefore, plastic bag bans have been shown to have little to no impact on overall litter. In some cases, plastic bag bans have actually resulted in [increased landfill waste](#).
- [California's plastic bag ban](#) led to a surge in the use of paper bags as well as a 120% increase in trash bag sales.
- Banning recyclable plastic bags creates more costs for those who can least afford it: families and seniors on fixed incomes. Small businesses are forced to comply with government regulations that mandate measuring, counting, reporting, and maintaining records related to enforcement of these unnecessary laws.

If we can answer any questions for you or provide you with any additional information, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Best regards,  
Erin Graziani

**Erin Graziani**

Communications Manager, American  
Progressive Bag Alliance

d. 202.974.5234 | m. 304.376.2916



MEMORANDUM

TO: Murray City Council  
FROM: Matt Seaholm, Executive Director, American Progressive Bag Alliance  
RE: Sustainability and Plastic Bag Policies: What Works & What Doesn't

---

As executive director of the American Progressive Bag Alliance, which represents American plastic bag manufacturers and recyclers, I wanted to share some key learnings we've collected over the past decade through our work in cities, municipalities and states that have tried various measures to reduce waste and litter in their regions.

Reducing waste is an important goal for everyone. Sustainability is so critical to our business, in fact, that our members have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in recycling innovations, infrastructure and education to support a healthier planet. But it's worth considering what policies have worked elsewhere—and what haven't—to ensure that any policies you consider are designed for the greatest success.

What we've found may surprise you: even the most well-intentioned policies that ban plastic retail bags actually create *negative* economic and environmental consequences. **In short, banning plastic bags may make them go away, but there are significant costs to these policies that can hurt your most vulnerable constituents and run counter to waste and litter-reduction goals.** More effective approaches instead focus on reuse and recycling programs. Here's why:

**1. Banning recyclable plastic bags creates more costs for those who can least afford it: families and seniors on fixed incomes.**

People shouldn't have to choose between buying food or paying for bags—but that's often a reality. Standard recyclable plastic bags are low cost, sanitary, highly reused and the preferred choice for most retailers and consumers. Bag ban policies *directly* add costs to grocery bills by charging customers for each bag or by forcing them to buy other, more expensive bags.

In fact, low-income workers [have complained publicly](#) that such policies are “discriminatory,” especially for those who rely on public transportation to get to low-wage jobs. According to the [National Black Chamber of Commerce](#), a bag tax in Washington, D.C., “hurts consumers, particularly the city’s African-American consumers, by artificially raising the cost of grocery trips. Given that a USDA study found that fully 10% of Washington, D.C.’s households are food insecure, city government policy that adds to grocery bills is not just irresponsible, it’s flat out wrong.”

**2. Policies that ban plastic bags push consumers to use alternatives that are *less* sustainable by comparison—because the most environmentally friendly option is recyclable plastic.**

In Austin, TX, and Thurston County, WA, respectively, bag laws actually led to [more landfill waste](#) from reusable bags and [doubled the use](#) of paper bags that use more resources.

Recent independent government studies comparing different bag options show that, in almost every instance, plastic grocery bags are the most environmentally friendly option

available to consumers. [Recyc-Québec](#), a government recycling agency based in Canada, released a study in December 2017, which found that the **overall lifecycle of the plastic bag—from its production to the end of its life—has far less environmental impact compared with other bags**. The study concludes, “Thin and light, [a plastic bag’s] production requires little material and energy,” and plastic bags have a **77.7% reuse rate** as garbage bag/bin liners. Additionally, in a February 2018 study, [Denmark’s Environmental Protection Agency](#) concluded that lightweight plastic carrier bags provide “the absolute best environmental performance.”

**3. Experience also shows these policies haven’t meaningfully reduced overall litter or waste anywhere they’ve been tried.**

Even though a ban can make bags go away, plastic bags make up only a tiny fraction of overall waste (0.3%, according to the EPA) and litter (usually less than 1-2%). *So legislation that focuses on such a small driver of waste and litter limits any meaningful outcomes and ignores the reality that alternative products are often worse for the environment.* This is largely the reason why St. Louis Park, a Minneapolis suburb, [rejected bag legislation](#). And in California, one year after a statewide bag ban and tax was implemented, Ocean Conservancy data showed a negligible 0.2% decrease in plastic retail bag litter as a percentage of overall litter across the state.

The good news is, we know what *does* work. **Educational programs that encourage reuse and recycling have proven successful in communities nationwide.** In Dallas, an educational program inspired the collection of 650,000 bags at elementary schools in just four months—and when this program was implemented in Atlanta and Pasco County, FL, the combined total rose to over one million.

We would be happy to share our insights about raising awareness of existing community recycling programs, which offer the greatest opportunity to make a positive difference for the environment, without burdening working families and seniors who can least afford it. In the vein of “do no harm,” educational programs are the most effective way to demonstrate your commitment to the environment.

For more information about the record of plastic bag ordinances, plastic bag recycling and the impact of plastic bag reuse, please do not hesitate to reach out. This topic is complex, and we hope our experience and insights can help inform your approach.

Sincerely,



Matt Seaholm  
Executive Director, American Progressive Bag Alliance  
Plastics Industry Association



# GET THE FACTS: PLASTIC BAGS



## PLASTIC BAGS ARE A PART OF OUR EVERYDAY LIVES

From manufacturing grocery bags to recycling plastic wraps and films, APBA represents pioneering companies that value sustainability and waste reduction – **just like you.**

*This fact sheet shares the latest evidence on:*

- 1** The environmental impact of plastic bags versus alternatives.
- 2** Environmental and economic consequences associated with plastic bag regulations.
- 3** The benefits of plastic bag reuse and recycling.

## HOW ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY ARE PLASTIC BAGS VS. ALTERNATIVES?

Lightweight plastic carrier bags provide the absolute best environmental performance.<sup>i</sup>

*Denmark Environmental Protection Agency*



*Paper Bags*

Paper bags use **17.3x** more **water** and emit **2x** more **greenhouse gases** than plastic bags.<sup>ii</sup>



*Thicker Plastic Bags*

Bags made of non-woven polypropylene, or "reusable bags," must be used

**11 to 59** times to have a **lower environmental impact** than a typical plastic bag.<sup>iii</sup>



*Cotton Tote Bags*

Cotton bags require between

**100 to 2,954** uses for their environmental impact to be lower than a common plastic bag.<sup>iv</sup>

## DID YOU KNOW?

EPA and national litter surveys show that plastic bags make up the tiniest fraction of overall waste and litter.<sup>v</sup>

Plastic bags represent **LESS THAN 1%** of waste & litter.



## PLASTIC BAG BANS DON'T SAVE MONEY



### Low-Income Families and Food Insecurity

Bag bans and taxes affect everyday people – **low-income families in particular**. Bag ban or tax policies directly add costs to grocery bills by charging customers for each bag or by forcing them to buy other, more expensive bags. And with **15 million U.S. households food insecure in 2017**,<sup>vi</sup> many can't afford a tax on plastic bags when they struggle to feed their families.



### Small Businesses

**Bans can increase costs** – especially for small businesses. Bag ordinances create more challenges for small businesses to comply, raise operational costs and even direct profits elsewhere.

- A study by the National Center for Policy Analysis found that banning plastic bags negatively impacted retail sales and employment in the ban area, shifting business to stores just outside the bag ban region.<sup>vii</sup>



### City Costs

Cities often adopt bag bans, fees or taxes to try to address solid waste and sanitation costs. However, in cities that have adopted bag restrictions, **there is no evidence proving the efficacy of these measures**.

- A NCPA study examined six city budgets and found that plastic bag restrictions did not result in savings for even one city. For instance, after Brownsville, Texas, passed a fee on plastic bags in 2009, the city's **solid waste revenues and expenses rose** in both of the first two years of the ban, while garbage collection fees experienced a general upward trend.<sup>viii</sup>

## WHAT WORKS INSTEAD: REUSE AND RECYCLING PROGRAMS

## PLASTIC BAGS ARE THE MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY CHOICE.

### Recycle

**Plastic retail bags are 100 percent recyclable and highly reused.**<sup>ix</sup>

- Plastic bags are being **recycled more than ever before**. In 2015, 1.2 billion pounds of plastic bags and film were recycled through take-back programs – a 34-million-pound increase from 2014.<sup>x</sup>
  - EPA shows a 74 percent increase in the rate of plastic bag, wrap and film recycling since 2005.<sup>xi</sup>
- There are nearly **30,000 grocery stores and retailers across the U.S.** with in-store drop-off points where shoppers can return their 100 percent recyclable plastic bags.

### Reuse

- Plastic bags are reused as garbage liners at a rate of **77.7 percent**.<sup>xii</sup>
- After plastic bags are recycled, many are used to make environmentally friendly materials for playgrounds, benches, construction materials and more.<sup>xiii</sup>



<sup>vi</sup> Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark, Life Cycle Assessment of grocery carrier bags, February 2018.

<sup>vii</sup> Life Cycle Assessment for Three Types of Grocery Bags - Recyclable Plastic; Compostable, Biodegradable Plastic; and Recycled, Recyclable Paper, Chet Chaffee and Bernard R. Yaros Boustead Consulting & Associates Ltd., 2014.

<sup>viii</sup> RECYC-QUÉBEC, Environmental and Economic Highlights of the Results of the Life Cycle Assessment of Shopping Bags, December 2017.

<sup>ix</sup> RECYC-QUÉBEC, Environmental and Economic Highlights of the Results of the Life Cycle Assessment of Shopping Bags, December 2017.

<sup>x</sup> Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: 2014 Tables and Figures, Environmental Protection Agency, December 2016; ER Planning PR Bags Report Brief - 2015 Litter Survey Rankings, Environmental Resources Planning, LLC, 2015.

<sup>xi</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, Food Security Status of U.S. Households in 2017, 2018.

<sup>xii</sup> National Center for Policy Analysis, "A Survey on the Economic Effects of Los Angeles County's Plastic Bag Ban," August 2012.

<sup>xiii</sup> Do Bans on Plastic Grocery Bags Save Cities Money?, H. Sterling Burnett, National Center for Policy Analysis, December 2013.

<sup>xiv</sup> APCO Insight, "National Plastic Shopping Bag Recycling Signage Testing," March 2007.

<sup>xv</sup> 2015 National Postconsumer Plastic Bag & Film Recycling Report, American Chemistry Council, March 2017.

<sup>xvi</sup> EPA: Municipal Solid Waste Report: 2011; May 2013 and Moore Recycling Associates Inc.: 2013 National Postconsumer Plastic Bag & Film Recycling Report; February 2015.

<sup>xvii</sup> RECYC-QUÉBEC, Environmental and Economic Highlights of the Results of the Life Cycle Assessment of Shopping Bags, December 2017.

<sup>xviii</sup> What Plastics Can Become, American Chemistry Council, 2018.





**MURRAY**  
CITY COUNCIL

**Adjournment**