



City of Revere  
City Council

City Council Order No. 18-036

Date: April 22, 2019

Offered by Revere City Council

**An Ordinance Prohibiting the Distribution of Single-Use, Disposable,  
Plastic Shopping Bags**

*Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Revere, as follows:*

**Section 1.** Title 8, Chapter 8.04 Offenses Generally is hereby amended by adding the following new section:

**Section 8.04.090 Use of Disposable Plastic Bags at Retail Business Establishments**

**A. Purpose.**

The reduction in the use of disposable plastic shopping bags by retail establishments in the city is a public purpose that protects the marine environment, advances solid waste reduction, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and protects waterways. This ordinance seeks to reduce the number of plastic bags that are being used, discarded and littered, and to promote the use of reusable checkout bags and recyclable paper bags by retail establishments located in the city.

**B. Definitions.**

The following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

1. *Checkout bag* means a carry-out bag provided by a retail establishment to a customer at the point of sale. Checkout bags shall not include:
  - a. Bags, whether plastic or not, in which loose produce or bulk products are placed by the consumer to deliver such items to the point of sale or check out area of the retail establishment;
  - b. Laundry or dry cleaner bags;
  - c. Newspaper bags; or
  - d. Bags used to contain or wrap frozen foods, meat or fish, whether prepackaged or not, to prevent or contain moisture and/or prevent contamination.
2. *Disposable plastic shopping bag* means any checkout bag made predominately of plastic derived from either petroleum, natural gas, or a biologically based source, such as corn or other plant sources, which is provided to a customer at the point of sale.
  - a. The term, "disposable plastic shopping bag" includes:

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- i. Degradable plastic bags, and
    - ii. Biodegradable plastic bags that are not commercially compostable as well as commercially compostable plastic bags.
  - b. The term "disposable plastic shopping bag" shall not include:
    - i. Reusable bags;
    - ii. Produce bags; or
    - iii. Product bags.
  - c. As used in this definition, the term *produce bag* or *product bag* means any bag without handles used exclusively to carry produce, meats or other food items to the point of sale inside a store or to prevent such food items from coming into direct contact with other purchased items.
3. *Recyclable paper bag* means a paper bag that is 100 percent recyclable and contains at least 40 percent post-consumer recycled content, and displays the words "Recyclable" and "made from 40% post-consumer recyclable content" in a visible manner on the outside of the bag.
4. *Retail establishment* means any commercial enterprise, defined as the following: whether for or not for profit, including, but not limited to, restaurants, pharmacies, convenience and grocery stores, liquor stores, seasonal and temporary businesses, jewelry stores, and household goods stores.
5. *Reusable bag* means a bag that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse and is either polyester, polypropylene, cotton or other durable material, and meets the following requirements:
  - a. Has a minimum lifetime capability of 125 or more uses carrying 22 or more pounds; and
  - b. Is machine washable or is made of a material that can be cleaned or disinfected 125 times.
  - c. Has a thickness of greater than four mil.

### **C. Prohibition of Disposable Plastic Shopping Bags**

No retail establishment shall provide a disposable plastic shopping bag to any customer for the purpose of enabling the customer to carry away goods from the point of sale. Nothing in this section shall be read to preclude any establishment from making reusable bags available for sale to customers or utilizing recyclable paper bags at checkout.

### **D. Penalties and Enforcement.**

1. Each Retail Establishment shall comply with Section 8.04.090 of the Revere Revised Ordinances.
2. If it is determined that a violation has occurred, Inspectional Services shall issue a warning notice to the retail establishment for the initial violation.

3. If an additional violation of this ordinance has occurred within one year after a warning notice has been issued for an initial violation, Inspectional Services shall issue a notice of violation and shall impose a penalty against the retail establishment.
4. The penalty for each violation that occurs after the issuance of the warning notice shall be no more than:
  - a. \$50 for the first offense.
  - b. Not less than \$100 or more than \$490 for the second offense and all subsequent offenses.

**E. Effective Date**

Stores that are 20,000 square feet or larger are required to adhere to the ordinance by July 1, 2019. Stores that are at least 10,000 square feet are required to adhere to the ordinance by September 1, 2019. Stores less than 10,000 square feet are required to adhere to the ordinance by December 31, 2019.

April 8, 2019	Ordered to a first reading
April 22, 2019	Ordered to a second reading
April 22, 2019	Ordered on a second reading.
April 22, 2019	Ordered on a third and final reading
April 22, 2019	Ordered Engrossed and Ordained on a Roll Call: Councillors Giannino, Keefe, McKenna, Morabito, Patch, Rizzo, and Council President Guinasso voting "YES". Councillors Rotondo and Zambuto voting "NO". Councillors Novoselsky and Powers were absent. Attest: Ashley E. Melnik, City Clerk

Approved by:



Mayor Brian M. Arrigo

5.1.19

Date

Attest:



City Clerk