



CITY OF MELROSE
LEGAL & LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
AGENDA • DECEMBER 11, 2017

Aldermanic Chamber, Melrose City Hall
562 Main Street, Melrose, MA 02176

Committee Meeting

7:45 PM

The public should take notice that the Melrose Board of Aldermen may, on certain occasions, have a quorum in attendance due to standing committees of the Board of Aldermen consisting of both voting and non-voting members. Members attending this duly posted meeting are participating and deliberating only in conjunction with the business of the standing committee.

I. CALL TO ORDER

John N. Tramontozzi	Chairman
Francis X. Wright Jr.	Vice Chairman
Peter D. Mortimer	Ward 6 Alderman
Scott M. Forbes	Ward 7 Alderman
Michael P. Zwirko	Alderman at Large
Donald L. Conn Jr.	President/Ex-officio Member
Robert A. Boisselle	Nonvoting Member
Gail M. Infurna	Nonvoting Member
Jennifer L. Lemmerman	Nonvoting Member
Mary Beth McAteer-Margolis	Nonvoting Member
Monica C. Medeiros	Nonvoting Member

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

III. ORDERS

1. **ORDER-2018-53** : Amending Melrose Revised Ordinances, Chapter 198 by adding Article V - Recyclable and Reusable Bags; further add Section 198-11 Use of Recyclable and Reusable Bags as set forth herein.

Sponsored by: Nonvoting Member Mary Beth McAteer-Margolis, Alderman at Large Michael P. Zwirko

From: Board of Aldermen

ASSIGNED TO COMMITTEE

IV. ADJOURNMENT



CITY OF MELROSE

CITY CLERK

City Hall, 562 Main Street
Melrose, MA 02176
Telephone - 781-979-4115

MARY-RITA O'SHEA

City Clerk

To: Mayor Robert Dolan
From: Mary-Rita O'Shea
Meeting Date: December 11, 2017
Subject: Amend Melrose Revised Ordinances, Chapter 198 by adding Article V -
Recyclable and Reusable Bags
Order #: ORDER-2018-53

See attached proposed ordinance amendment by:

*Alderman Mary Beth McAteer-Margolis and
Alderman Michael Zwirko*

FINANCIAL IMPACT:N/A

**AN ORDINANCE REGARDING THE USE OF RECYCLABLE AND REUSABLE
BAGS IN MELROSE**

Amend Melrose Revised Ordinances, Chapter 198, by adding Article V – Recyclable and Reusable Bags; further add Section 198-11, Use of recyclable and reusable bags, as set forth herein.

**ARTICLE V
Recyclable and Reusable Bags**

§ 198-11 Use of recyclable and reusable bags.

A. **Purpose.**

- (1) The reduction in the use of single-use plastic bags is a public purpose that protects the land and marine environment and waterways, minimizes litter, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, single-use plastic bags create a burden for solid waste collection and recycling facilities, clog storm drainage systems, and require the use of millions of barrels of crude oil nationally for their manufacture. Reduction in use of single-use plastic bags is consistent with and supports the City of Melrose's participation in the Metro Boston Climate Preparedness Commitment and its goal to achieve net-zero carbon-free status by 2050.
- (2) The purpose of this ordinance is to reduce the number of single-use plastic bags that are being used, discarded, and/or littered and to promote the use of reusable bags and recyclable paper bags by retail establishments in the City of Melrose (the "City").

B. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this ordinance, the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

CITY – The City of Melrose, Massachusetts.

CHECKOUT BAG – A carryout bag provided by a retail establishment to a customer at the point of sale. Checkout bags shall not include:

- (1) Bags, whether plastic or not, in which loose produce or products are placed by a consumer to deliver such items to the point of sale or checkout area of a retail establishment;
- (2) Laundry or dry-cleaner bags;
- (3) Newspaper bags; or

- (4) Bags used to contain or wrap products, whether prepackaged or not, to prevent or contain moisture.

RECYCLABLE PAPER BAG – A paper bag that:

- (1) Is 100% recyclable, including the handles;
- (2) Contains at least 40% post-consumer recycled paper content; and
- (3) Displays the words “Recyclable” and “made from 40% post-consumer recycled content” (or greater amount) in a visible manner on the outside of the bag.

RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT – Any person, corporation, partnership, business venture, or vendor that sells or provides merchandise, goods or materials directly to the customer, whether for or not for profit, including, but not limited to, convenience and grocery stores, restaurants, pharmacies, stores that sell wine, beer or spirits, seasonal and temporary businesses, jewelry stores and household goods stores.

REUSABLE BAG – A sewn bag with stitched handles that is specifically designed for multiple reuse that:

- (1) Can carry 25 pounds;
- (2) Is machine washable or is made of a material that can be cleaned or disinfected 125 times;
- (3) Is made of either polyester, polypropylene, cotton or other natural fiber material; and
- (4) Has a thickness of greater than 4.0 millimeters.

C. Requirements.

- (1) If a retail establishment provides checkout bags to customers, such bags shall be either a recyclable paper bag or a reusable bag.

D. Education. The City shall send written notice detailing the requirements imposed by this ordinance to the retail establishments at least six months prior to the effective date of this ordinance. Thereafter, the City Clerk and/or Health Department will notify all retail establishments, upon the next license renewal or initial application, of the requirements imposed by this ordinance.

E. Penalties.

- (1) This ordinance shall be enforced by the Health Department, Inspectional Services Department, City Clerk, or any other department having jurisdiction for licensing, inspectional services and code enforcement.
- (2) If the City determines that a violation of this ordinance has occurred at or by a retail establishment, such retail establishment shall be penalized as provided for in Section 21D of Article 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws, and as adopted by the City in § 1-19 of Chapter 1 of the Code of Ordinances of the City, in the amounts set forth in this ordinance.
- (3) The penalties for any violation of this ordinance shall be as follows:
 - (a) First violation: written warning, which will enable the violator to cure such violation within 30 days.
 - (b) Second violation: if, after 30 days, the violation has not been cured, the penalty shall be \$25.
 - (c) Third violation and all subsequent violations: \$100.
- (4) In the event any retail establishment continues to violate this ordinance after a third violation, such continuing violation shall constitute a separate offense hereunder resulting in a fine of \$100 per day.

F. When effective. This ordinance shall become effective six months after the last day of the month of its passage for retail establishments with an interior finished floor area of more than 8,000 square feet and nine months after the last day of the month of its passage for retail establishments with a finished floor area of 8,000 square feet or less.

G. Severability. Each section of this ordinance is an independent section; and in the event any section or part thereof is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional, void or ineffective for any reason, such determination shall not invalidate any other sections or parts thereof.

From: Janet Aucello
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Order 2018-53
Date: Saturday, December 02, 2017 9:49:11 PM

Dear Aldermen:

Please support the Order 2018-53 which is the BYOBag ordinance.

The plastic bags that we see carried and wheeled out of retail stores and elsewhere end up blowing through our neighborhoods and can eventually land in our waterways. Once in the waterways, fish will pick on them and get the plastic in their digestive tracts. The plastic will get broken down into tiny pieces and end up in our digestive tracts after eating the plastic contaminated fish.

If they are put in the recycling bins - as often happens - they clog the recycling machinery causing delays and damage to the machines.

Plastic bags take many years to decompose and new ones are introduced to the environment daily. If we can curb their use, we can help to save the environment.

If everyone kept a bag or two in their vehicle, it would be easy to grab and bring into the store. This simple action would have quite an impact on saving our environment.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Janet Aucello
31 Leonard Road

From: Mjosephson
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Supporting BYO Bag Initiative
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 9:41:34 AM

All,

I am writing this email to support the BYO Bag initiative, I am a longtime Melrose resident and voter. It is a very small change for residents to get used to bringing a reusable bag when shopping, one many Melrosians have already made. But it has a big long term impact on cleaning up our environment. As many individual cities and towns take similar actions, the impact is multiplied. Please consider passing this ordinance.

Regards,

Mark Josephson

Pardon the typos, sent from my wicked smaht phone.

From: Ryan, Ellen (COP)
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: plastic bag ban
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 9:42:06 AM

Dear Members of the Board of Aldermen,

I am writing in support of an ordinance to ban plastic bags in Melrose. The environmental expense of plastic bags far outweighs the convenience that they provide. The residents of Melrose can and should be using reusable shopping bags.

Most plastic bags do not get returned to stores to be recycled. A lot of people mistakenly put them in their curbside recycling bins and then they get tangled in the sorting machines at the JRM facility. Plastic bags are polluting our oceans and waterways and killing thousands of marine animals each year. Plastic bags do not biodegrade. They only break down into small pieces which marine animals mistake as food.

Plastic bags have been banned in over 50 cities and towns in Massachusetts along with numerous small and large cities across the country and even several states and countries. We need to do our part to reduce plastic bag pollution. I hope you will support an ordinance to ban plastic bags here in Melrose.

Sincerely,

Ellen Ryan
 945 Franklin Street, Melrose

ELLEN M. RYAN
 REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF SALES & MARKETING

Fairmont Copley Plaza
 138 St. James Avenue
 Boston, Massachusetts
 United States 02116
 T + 617 867 8527
 F + 617 437 0794
ellen.ryan@fairmont.com
fairmont.com






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From: Molly Baab
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: plastic bag ban
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 1:31:35 PM

Dear Members of the Board of Aldermen,

I have heard that Melrose may consider banning disposable plastic bags so I am writing in support of that measure. I hope that Melrose can join the more than 50 cities and towns in Massachusetts that have banned them. We need to do our part to reduce plastic bag pollution.

The environmental expense of plastic bags far outweighs the convenience that they provide. The residents of Melrose can and should be using reusable shopping bags. Most plastic bags do not get returned to stores to be recycled. A lot of people mistakenly put them in their curbside recycling bins and then they get tangled in the sorting machines at the JRM facility. They also end up in our drains and waterways where they can harm wildlife and make our area look less attractive.

I love our town and want us to be on the forefront of protecting our environment. Please support an ordinance to ban plastic bags here in Melrose.

Sincerely,

Molly S Baab

52 Sears Ave

Melrose, MA 02176

From: Susan G. Baron
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Support of An Ordinance Regarding the Use of Reusable Bags.
Date: Sunday, December 03, 2017 11:12:00 PM

Dear Aldermen and Alderwomen,
I am writing to support the passage of Order 2018-53 – An Ordinance that will restrict use of plastic bags.

Melrose uses 9 million single use plastic bags every year and only 5% are recycled properly. An Ordinance Regarding the Use of Reusable Bags will minimize litter, protect the marine life in Ell Pond and all other waterways down stream. Single Use bags clog our storm drains and require the use of fossil fuels for their manufacture. Reducing our use of plastic bags will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and have a significant positive impact on Climate Change.

I hope you all pass this ordinance.

Thank you,

Susan Gitelle Baron

From: Brendan Bernard
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Melrose Plastic Bag Ban, yes!
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 11:31:15 AM

Hello Melrose Board of Aldermen,

I recently became aware that Melrose is considering a ban on plastic bags, this is quite exciting news to me and my family. We have tried to follow the current recycling of bags, taking them to the grocery stores, but it is tough to remember them (and we try!). We use our reusable shopping bags... but most people don't.

Growing up in Seattle, which has been a leader on recycling and alternative waste reduction strategies, I was initially appalled when we moved to Melrose (in 2011) and there was only recycling every other week. Now, as I've become more engaged with the local community I've seen that Melrose is striving to catch up with the leaders like Seattle (where they've had a ban in place since 2012) and San Francisco. The additional recycling (every week) has made a tremendous improvement on how Melrosians can reduce waste, but I still see plastic bags all over town.

As you are probably aware most plastic bags do not get returned to stores to be recycled. And a large number of people trying to do the right thing (recycle the bags) mistakenly put them in curbside recycling bins which causes issues at the facility.

In my return visits to Seattle each year I have seen a decrease of bags in the gutter, tangled in trees, laying in ponds/lakes, this is enjoyable from an aesthetic point of view and not just an environmental. Additionally, the city of Seattle published data that they saw a 50% reduction in plastic bags in their waste stream!

Not only have plastic bags have been banned in over 50 cities and towns in Massachusetts, they have been banned in some states and even entire countries.

We need to do our part to reduce plastic bag pollution. I hope you will support an ordinance to ban plastic bags here in Melrose and the implementation of a mandatory charge of \$0.05 for larger paper bags (1/6 barrel size & larger).

Best Regards,
 Brendan Bernard
 52 Sears Ave.
 732-470-8221
brendodb@alumni.rutgers.edu

From: Nikki Blades
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Please vote in favor of Order 2018-53 - The Plastic Bag ban
Date: Saturday, December 02, 2017 3:43:36 PM

Dear Aldermen of Melrose,

My name is Nicolette Blades and I am a resident of Melrose. **Please vote to ban single use plastic bags in Melrose** - they end up littering our streets, trees and bushes, and likely end up getting incinerated (adding to more noxious gases in the atmosphere) or end up polluting the ocean. They are truly "single" use bags and are handed out with far too much frequency by retailers. There is too much plastic in my life and I would welcome the opportunity to reduce it in the community that I live in, for the benefit of me, my family, and my neighbors.

Please let Melrose be the next city to join the other 60 communities in Massachusetts that have now banned plastic bags (including Wakefield and Boston).

Thank you,
Nicolette Blades

From: Bruce Herrmann
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Order 2018-53 - BYOBag ordinance
Date: Friday, December 01, 2017 12:29:12 PM

Dear Aldermen,

I am writing this to express my *full support* for the BYOBag ordinance. Many cities across the country have adopted this approach to caring for our city and environment. We should absolutely join this effort. Please support it!

H Bruce Herrmann
20 Bellevue Ave

Attachment: citizen-correspondence-supportforbagban-2018-53-Bruce Herrmann (ORDER-2018-53 : Amend Melrose Revised Ordinances,

From: John Capuano
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Order 2018-53
Date: Saturday, December 02, 2017 9:33:06 PM

I am in favor of Order 2018-53.

John Capuano
31 Leonard Road

From: Danielle Chouhan
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Support of ordinance to ban plastic bags
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 11:26:25 AM

Dear Members of the Board of Aldermen,

I am writing in support of an ordinance to ban plastic bags in Melrose. The environmental expense of plastic bags far outweighs the convenience that they provide. The residents of Melrose can and should be using reusable shopping bags.

Most plastic bags do not get returned to stores to be recycled. A lot of people mistakenly put them in their curbside recycling bins and then they get tangled in the sorting machines at the JRM facility. Plastic bags are polluting our oceans and waterways and killing thousands of marine animals each year. Plastic bags do not biodegrade. They only break down into small pieces which marine animals mistake as food.

Plastic bags have been banned in over 50 cities and towns in Massachusetts along with numerous small and large cities across the country and even several states and countries. We need to do our part to reduce plastic bag pollution. I hope you will support an ordinance to ban plastic bags here in Melrose.

Sincerely,

Danielle Chouhan
9 Sears Ave
Melrose, MA 02176

From: Sara Desmond
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: plastic bag ban
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 10:58:33 AM

Dear Board of Aldermen--

I am writing in support of the plastic bag ban for the city of Melrose. The environmental impact of this convenience is devastating to our oceans and wildlife and sets a poor example for our children who will inherit the debt of this generation's careless use of single-use bags. Most plastic bags do not get recycled and many residents are unaware that they cannot be recycled in curbside pick up.

While many dog-owners rely on the plastic bags to pick up their dog's waste, biodegradable options are widely available at very little expense. Our residents should be using reusable shopping bags. It's important for Melrose to join the growing number of communities within Massachusetts and across the country that have already banned plastic bags.

Thank you.
Sara Desmond
68 Walton Park
Melrose, MA 02176

From: Kitty Flynn
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: plastic bag ordinance
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 10:01:58 AM

Dear Members of the Board of Aldermen,
I am writing in support of an ordinance to ban plastic bags in Melrose. The environmental expense of plastic bags far outweighs the convenience that they provide. The residents of Melrose can and should be using reusable shopping bags.

Most plastic bags do not get returned to stores to be recycled. A lot of people mistakenly put them in their curbside recycling bins and then they get tangled in the sorting machines at the JRM facility.

Plastic bags are polluting our oceans and waterways and killing thousands of marine animals each year. Plastic bags do not biodegrade. They only break down into small pieces which marine animals mistake as food.

Plastic bags have been banned in over 50 cities and towns in Massachusetts along with numerous small and large cities across the country and even several states and countries. We need to do our part to reduce plastic bag pollution. I hope you will support an ordinance to ban plastic bags here in Melrose.

Sincerely,

Kitty Flynn
26 Nowell Rd.
Melrose MA

From: gil gaeta
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Plastic Bag Ordinance
Date: Sunday, December 03, 2017 10:12:58 PM

Dear Members of the Board of Aldermen,

I am writing in support of an ordinance to ban plastic bags in Melrose. A simple reusable bag can make a big impact on our environment. We are an educated, progressive city, yet we are environmentally irresponsible.

The majority of plastic bags are NOT being recycled, they are not biodegradable and they threaten marine mammals. Plastic bags are polluting our oceans and waterways.

We moved here from San Francisco, where reusable bags were the norm. It is a simple and easy change to make. Plastic bags have been banned in over 50 cities and towns in Massachusetts along with numerous small and large cities across the country and even several states and countries. We need to do our part to reduce plastic bag pollution. I hope you will support an ordinance to ban plastic bags here in Melrose.

Sincerely,

Gil Gaeta

From: Sue Goodnow-Ji
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Plastic Bag Ordinance
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 9:53:00 AM

Dear Members of the Board of Aldermen,

I am writing in support of an ordinance to ban plastic bags in Melrose. The environmental expense of plastic bags far outweighs the convenience that they provide. The residents of Melrose can and should be using reusable shopping bags.

Most plastic bags do not get returned to stores to be recycled. A lot of people mistakenly put them in their curbside recycling bins and then they get tangled in the sorting machines at the JRM facility. Plastic bags are polluting our oceans and waterways and killing thousands of marine animals each year. Plastic bags do not biodegrade. They only break down into small pieces which marine animals mistake as food.

Plastic bags have been banned in over 50 cities and towns in Massachusetts along with numerous small and large cities across the country and even several states and countries. We need to do our part to reduce plastic bag pollution. I hope you will support an ordinance to ban plastic bags here in Melrose.

Thank you for your dedication and continuous hard work to make Melrose a wonderful place to live.

Sincerely,

Sue Goodnow-Ji
 29 Dyer Ave

--

Sue Goodnow-Ji
 617-312-5020
sue.noonday@gmail.com
suegoodnow.noondaycollection.com
Style your Friends, Change the World

"If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday." Isaiah 58:10



From: Gerri Guyote
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Ordinance regarding reusable bags
Date: Sunday, December 03, 2017 7:53:06 PM

Melrose uses 9 million single use plastic bags every year and only 5% are recycled properly.

An Ordinance Regarding the Use of Reusable Bags will minimize litter, protect the marine life in Ell Pond and all other waterways down stream. Single Use bags clog our storm drains and require the use of fossil fuels for their manufacture. Reducing our use of plastic bags will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and have a significant positive impact on Climate Change. This is our opportunity to really make a difference on the local level!

I urge you to support this ordinance.

Thank you
Gerri Guyote
37 Albion Street

Sent from my iPhone

From: Charlie Harak
To: Aldermen; bboiselle@cirtofmelrose.org
Subject: Order 2018-53
Date: Saturday, December 02, 2017 4:27:49 PM

I am a registered voter in Melrose and would like to go on record as supporting the passage of this order, which would largely ban single-use plastic bags at retail establishments.

I have been using what the order calls "reusable bags" for a few years now. They are sturdy (plastic bags sometimes tear, spilling the goods out); hold more items than the small plastic bags stores use; are easy to carry; and are much easier to load and un-load because they are square on the bottom and remain upright much more than plastic bags.

Even when I forget to bring my own reusable bag, I try to remember ask for paper, as they also work fine.

I know that some folks like the plastic bags, but given all of the environmental and other problems associated with these bags, the city would be wise to ban them.

Charles Harak
14 Country Club Rd.
Melrose MA 02176

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From: Philip Hermann
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Order 2018-53
Date: Saturday, December 02, 2017 3:03:57 PM

It is time for Melrose to catch up with the cities and towns of the commonwealth that care about the environment.

Recently I was at Shaw's and saw a man leaving with a shopping cart full of food. Everything was doubled bagged for a total of 20 plastic bags. This is duplicated by thousands of shoppers every day in our city. The bags are probably only used once and then placed in the garbage or worse into the recycling bin.

Each reusable bag can easily eliminate 1000 plastic bags over its lifetime.

If Europeans, China and over 60 cities in Massachusetts can eliminate bags so can the people of Melrose.

Take a stand for our city and planet.

Philip Hermann
83 East Foster Street
Melrose
phfamilydetective@gmail.com

From: Erin Hoffer
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Order 2018-53 - BYOBag ordinance
Date: Friday, December 01, 2017 12:38:14 PM

Dear Aldermen,

I am writing this to express my *full support* for the BYOBag ordinance. Many cities across the country have adopted this approach to caring for our city and environment. We should absolutely join this effort. Please support it!

Erin Rae Hoffer, 20 Bellevue ave, Melrose

From: kim kerrigan
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Please Support Plastic bag Order 2018-5
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 8:49:16 AM

Dear Aldermen,

We are strongly in favor of having a plastic bag ordinance in Melrose. We moved to beautiful Melrose from California where we lived with a plastic bag ordinance and found it easy. We know reducing the number of plastic bags and circulation will not only help our community but the world be a healthier place.

We encourage you to support Order 2018-5.

Sincerely,

Mike and Kim Kerrigan

--

Kimberly Kerrigan NP

Nurse Practitioner

Certified Health Coach

858-208-6849

KerriganHealth@gmail.com

KerriganHealth.ichooseoptimalhealth.com

From: Joanne Mujalli
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Ban plastic bags
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 9:30:25 AM

Dear Members of the Board of Aldermen,

I am writing in support of an ordinance to ban plastic bags in Melrose. The environmental expense of plastic bags far outweighs the convenience that they provide. The residents of Melrose can and should be using reusable shopping bags.

Most plastic bags do not get returned to stores to be recycled. A lot of people mistakenly put them in their curbside recycling bins and then they get tangled in the sorting machines at the JRM facility. Plastic bags are polluting our oceans and waterways and killing thousands of marine animals each year. Plastic bags do not biodegrade. They only break down into small pieces which marine animals mistake as food.

Plastic bags have been banned in over 50 cities and towns in Massachusetts along with numerous small and large cities across the country and even several states and countries. We need to do our part to reduce plastic bag pollution. I hope you will support an ordinance to ban plastic bags here in Melrose.

Best,
Joanne Mujalli
103 Ashland Street

From: melrose.murphys@gmail.com
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Plastic bags ban
Date: Sunday, December 03, 2017 11:29:06 AM

Dear Members of the Board of Aldermen,

I am writing in support of an ordinance to ban plastic bags in Melrose. The environmental expense of plastic bags far outweighs the convenience that they provide. The residents of Melrose can and should be using reusable shopping bags.

Most plastic bags do not get returned to stores to be recycled. A lot of people mistakenly put them in their curbside recycling bins and then they get tangled in the sorting machines at the JRM facility. Plastic bags are polluting our oceans and waterways and killing thousands of marine animals each year. Plastic bags do not biodegrade. They only break down into small pieces which marine animals mistake as food.

Plastic bags have been banned in over 50 cities and towns in Massachusetts along with numerous small and large cities across the country and even several states and countries. We need to do our part to reduce plastic bag pollution. I hope you will support an ordinance to ban plastic bags here in Melrose.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Murphy
21 West Emerson St
Melrose, MA 02176

Sent from my iPhone

From: Clint Richmond
To: [Aldermen](#)
Cc: emily.norton@sierraclub.org
Subject: Mass. Sierra Club letter supporting the Bag Ordinance
Date: Sunday, December 03, 2017 2:28:01 PM
Attachments: [SC-Melrose-2017-12-03.pdf](#)

Dear Aldermen:

Please see the attached letter from Emily Norton, Exec. Dir. of the Mass. Sierra Club, in support of the Melrose bag ordinance.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this issue.

Respectfully,

Clint Richmond,
Solid Waste & Toxics lead
clint@massachusetts.sierraclub.org
(617) 423-5775

Attachment: citizen-correspondence-supportforbagban-2018-53-Richmond-Massachusetts-Sierra-Club (ORDER-2018-53 : Amend Melrose

From: Kristina Rodolico
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: In support of plastic bag ban
Date: Sunday, December 03, 2017 7:21:27 AM

Dear Members of the Board of Aldermen,

I am writing in support of an ordinance to ban plastic bags in Melrose. The environmental expense of plastic bags far outweighs the convenience that they provide. The residents of Melrose can and should be using reusable shopping bags.

Most plastic bags do not get returned to stores to be recycled. A lot of people mistakenly put them in their curbside recycling bins and then they get tangled in the sorting machines at the JRM facility. Plastic bags are polluting our oceans and waterways and killing thousands of marine animals each year. Plastic bags do not biodegrade. They only break down into small pieces which marine animals mistake as food.

Plastic bags have been banned in over 50 cities and towns in Massachusetts along with numerous small and large cities across the country and even several states and countries. We need to do our part to reduce plastic bag pollution. I hope you will support an ordinance to ban plastic bags here in Melrose.

Kind regards,
Kris Rodolico

Follow Your Art

www.follow-your-art.com

(781) 462-1221

From: Joanna Rosenberg
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Say Yes To Less Plastic!
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 10:37:03 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Dear Members of the Board of Aldermen,

I am writing in support of an ordinance to ban plastic bags in Melrose. The environmental expense of plastic bags far outweighs the convenience that they provide. The residents of Melrose can and should be using reusable shopping bags.

Most plastic bags do not get returned to stores to be recycled. A lot of people mistakenly put them in their curbside recycling bins and then they get tangled in the sorting machines at the JRM facility. Plastic bags are polluting our oceans and waterways and killing thousands of marine animals each year. Plastic bags do not biodegrade. They only break down into small pieces which marine animals mistake as food.

Plastic bags have been banned in over 50 cities and towns in Massachusetts - such as **Boston, Watertown, Gloucester, and Natick** - along with numerous small and large cities across the country and even several states and countries. We need to do our part to reduce plastic bag pollution. I hope you will make a commitment **to work with local businesses to support an ordinance and make the transition to ban plastic bags** here in Melrose.

Extra reading: [New England Diary: Marine plastic trash imperils beaches and wildlife](#)



Sincerely,
 Joanna Rosenberg
 51 Poplar Street, Melrose, MA 02176

From: Robin Snyder-Drummond
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Order 2018-53
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 12:38:32 PM

To the City of Melrose Aldermen,

I am writing to express my full support for the Bring Your Own Bag ordinance (order 2018-53).

The simple act of not using so many plastic bags can make a big impact. I see how effective this has been in many other municipalities, reducing litter and saving trash costs. It's an easy transition for many people, most stores have reusable bags to sell and there are plenty of other alternatives available.

I encourage you to vote for this Bring Your Own Bag ordinance.

Sincerely,
Robin Snyder-Drummond

366 Grove St.
Melrose, MA 02176

From: lspeare2002@yahoo.com
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Support for ban on plastic bags
Date: Sunday, December 03, 2017 4:39:46 PM

Dear Members of the Board of Aldermen,

I am writing in support of an ordinance to ban plastic bags in Melrose. The environmental expense of plastic bags far outweighs the convenience that they provide.

Most plastic bags do not get returned to stores to be recycled. A lot of people mistakenly put them in their curbside recycling bins and then they get tangled in the sorting machines at the JRM facility. Plastic bags are polluting our oceans and waterways and killing thousands of marine animals each year. Plastic bags do not biodegrade. They only break down into small pieces which marine animals mistake as food.

Plastic bags have been banned in over 50 cities and towns in Massachusetts along with numerous small and large cities across the country and even several states and countries. We need to do our part to reduce plastic bag pollution. I hope you will support an ordinance to ban plastic bags here in Melrose.

Sincerely,

Laura Speare
45 Woodland Ave.

from my iPhone

From: Brooke Sulahian
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 1:51:13 PM

Dear Members of the Board of Aldermen,

Thank you for your leadership within Melrose. We enjoy being active members of this wonderful community.

We are writing in support of an ordinance to ban plastic bags in Melrose. The environmental expense of plastic bags far outweighs the convenience that they provide. The residents of Melrose can and should be using reusable shopping bags.

Most plastic bags do not get returned to stores to be recycled. A lot of people mistakenly put them in their curbside recycling bins and then they get tangled in the sorting machines at the JRM facility. Plastic bags are polluting our oceans and waterways and killing thousands of marine animals each year. Plastic bags do not biodegrade. They only break down into small pieces which marine animals mistake as food.

Plastic bags have been banned in over 50 cities and towns in Massachusetts along with numerous small and large cities across the country and even several states and countries. We need to do our part to reduce plastic bag pollution. We hope you will support an ordinance to ban plastic bags here in Melrose.

Sincerely,

Tim and Brooke Sulahian
58 Albion St.
Melrose, Ma 02176

From: Ken Templeton
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Support for Recyclable and Reusable Bag Ordinance
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 6:59:29 AM

To the Melrose Aldermen,

I am writing in support of the proposed ordinance to require recyclable and reusable bags in Melrose businesses. I believe the proposed timeline of six months gives businesses and shoppers adequate time to prepare for changes and I support Melrose joining other Massachusetts communities to work toward sustainable habits that benefit our broader world. The impact of plastic bags that are not recyclable are documented in the ordinance itself.

Thank you very much for your service to Melrose and I appreciate the opportunity to share my perspective with you.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Templeton

150 East Emersion Street
Melrose, MA 02176

From: Elizabeth Thomas
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Wholeheartedly support plastic bag ordinance
Date: Sunday, December 03, 2017 7:17:56 AM

Dear Members of the Board of Aldermen,

I am writing in support of an ordinance to ban plastic bags in Melrose. The environmental expense of plastic bags far outweighs the convenience that they provide. The residents of Melrose can and should be using reusable shopping bags.

Most plastic bags do not get returned to stores to be recycled. A lot of people mistakenly put them in their curbside recycling bins and then they get tangled in the sorting machines at the JRM facility. Plastic bags are polluting our oceans and waterways and killing thousands of marine animals each year. Plastic bags do not biodegrade. They only break down into small pieces which marine animals mistake as food.

Plastic bags have been banned in over 50 cities and towns in Massachusetts along with numerous small and large cities across the country and even several states and countries. We need to do our part to reduce plastic bag pollution. I hope you will support an ordinance to ban plastic bags here in Melrose.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Thomas
116 Ashland St.
Melrose, MA 02176

Sent from my iPhone

From: Dorothy Travis
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Support for recycling ordinance
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 1:06:10 PM

Hi,

My husband and I support the Bring Your Own Bag ordinance. We hope that Melrose will be joining this trend which has been so effective in other cities and towns.

Best Regards,

Dorothy and Evans Travis

--

From: Umbro, Lynda
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: BAN PLASTIC BAGS
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 10:59:35 AM

Dear Members of the Board of Aldermen,

I am writing in support of an ordinance **to ban plastic bags in Melrose**. The environmental expense of plastic bags far outweighs the convenience that they provide. The residents of Melrose can and should be using reusable shopping bags.

Most plastic bags do not get returned to stores to be recycled. A lot of people mistakenly put them in their curbside recycling bins and then they get tangled in the sorting machines at the JRM facility. Plastic bags are polluting our oceans and waterways and killing thousands of marine animals each year. Plastic bags do not biodegrade. They only break down into small pieces which marine animals mistake as food.

Plastic bags have been banned in over 50 cities and towns in Massachusetts along with numerous small and large cities across the country and even several states and countries. We need to do our part to reduce plastic bag pollution. I hope you will support an ordinance to ban plastic bags here in Melrose.

Thank you.

Lynda Umbro

49 Melrose St
Melrose, MA 02176

This e-mail and any attachments may contain confidential and/or proprietary information. If you received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately by reply e-mail and delete the e-mail and any attachments; any further use of such e-mail or attachments is strictly prohibited.

From: Sarah Waywell Timm
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Bag ban support
Date: Friday, December 01, 2017 10:21:09 AM

Dear Aldermen and Alderwomen,

I am writing in hopes we will follow Boston's lead in banning one use plastic bags in Melrose. Would be wonderful to be a leader in the United States in this. It is such a small ask of our citizens with a huge impact on our world.

Sincerely,
Sarah Waywell Timm
East Wyoming Ave

Attachment: citizen-correspondence-supportforbagban-2018-53-Waywell Timm (ORDER-2018-53 : Amend Melrose Revised Ordinances,

From: Dana Webber
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Bag Ordinance
Date: Friday, December 01, 2017 8:42:06 AM

Resricting plastic bags in Melrose will be good for our city. Boston did it. So should Melrose!

Ward 5 citizen

From: Weidemann, Nick
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: plastic bag ordinance
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 1:51:11 PM

Dear Members of the Board of Aldermen,

I am writing in support of an ordinance to ban plastic bags in Melrose. The environmental expense of plastic bags far outweighs the convenience that they provide. The residents of Melrose can and should be using reusable shopping bags.

Most plastic bags do not get returned to stores to be recycled. A lot of people mistakenly put them in their curbside recycling bins and then they get tangled in the sorting machines at the JRM facility.

Plastic bags are polluting our oceans and waterways and killing thousands of marine animals each year. Plastic bags do not biodegrade. They only break down into small pieces which marine animals mistake as food.

Plastic bags have been banned in over 50 cities and towns in Massachusetts along with numerous small and large cities across the country and even several states and countries. We need to do our part to reduce plastic bag pollution. I hope you will support an ordinance to ban plastic bags here in Melrose.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Weidemann
26 Nowell Rd.
Melrose MA



50 Federal Street, 3rd floor
Boston MA 02110
(617) 423-5775
www.sierraclubmass.org

December 3, 2017

Dear Melrose Board of Aldermen:

The Massachusetts Chapter of the Sierra Club has been actively supporting efforts to curb the use of single-use polyethylene bags at the state and local levels. Bag laws are part of a campaign to reduce unnecessary plastic waste and increase sustainability. In the last five years, over 55 communities across the state have passed local bag laws from Williamstown to Martha's Vineyard. This represents well over 1.3 million residents.

Melrose residents are estimated to use over **9 million polyethylene shopping bags per year**. There is no excuse for single-use shopping made of petrochemicals derived from non-renewable, fracked natural gas and oil. Furthermore, recycling cannot solve the waste problem, because it is inconvenient and has resulted in return rates of only 5%. Bags are usually downcycled into non-recyclable products such as plastic lumber, which relies on the production of even more bags. Eliminating plastic bags from the waste stream will be a significant positive environmental action. Eliminating non-biodegradable packaging will also beautify the City by reducing the unsightly and permanent litter that thin plastic bags have caused. As litter, bags can be carried into storm drains and waterways to the Atlantic Ocean. Bags eventually become micro-particles which can be ingested by aquatic animals, and enter the human food chain and contaminate our drinking water.

The proposed Melrose ordinance is based on comprehensive, effective laws that have been successfully implemented elsewhere in the state. The Massachusetts Sierra Club urges you to vote yes on the bag ordinance.

Respectfully,

Emily Norton
Mass. Sierra Club, Chapter Director
emily.norton@sierraclub.org

From: Dan Bradford
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Order 2018-53 - Support for Banning Plastic Bags
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 2:51:23 PM

I am writing to voice my support for the proposed ordinance to ban single-use plastic bags in Melrose. We do not need any plastic bags in Melrose.

Thank you!

Dan Bradford
1 N High St.

From: Rebecca Perlmutter
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Order 2018-53
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 2:52:25 PM

Dear Aldermen,

I am writing to voice my support for Order 2018-53. Melrose uses 9 million single use plastic bags every year and only 5% are recycled properly. An Ordinance Regarding the Use of Reusable Bags will minimize litter, protect the marine life in Ell Pond and all other waterways down stream. Single Use bags clog our storm drains and require the use of fossil fuels for their manufacture. Reducing our use of plastic bags will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and have a significant positive impact on Climate Change. This is our opportunity to really make a difference on the local level!

Thanks for your consideration.

Best,

Rebecca Perlmutter
1 North High Street

From: Eleanor Hulse
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: plastic bag ordinance
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 3:21:24 PM

Dear Members of the Board of Aldermen,

I am writing in support of an ordinance to ban plastic bags in Melrose. The environmental expense of plastic bags far outweighs the convenience that they provide. The residents of Melrose can and should be using reusable shopping bags.

Most plastic bags do not get returned to stores to be recycled. A lot of people mistakenly put them in their curbside recycling bins and then they get tangled in the sorting machines at the JRM facility. Plastic bags are polluting our oceans and waterways and killing thousands of marine animals each year. Plastic bags do not biodegrade. They only break down into small pieces which marine animals mistake as food.

Plastic bags have been banned in over 50 cities and towns in Massachusetts along with numerous small and large cities across the country and even several states and countries. We need to do our part to reduce plastic bag pollution. I hope you will support an ordinance to ban plastic bags here in Melrose.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Hulse
297 Melrose St
Melrose Ma

From: Alan Pampanin
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Order 2018-53
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 4:39:45 PM

Dear Board:

I am a Melrose resident residing at 32 South High Street and a former member of the Melrose Human Rights Commission (eons ago). I am emailing my support for the ordinance Ordinance to reduce the use of single use plastic bags. I believe it is order 2018-53. This would be a great stride for our fair city. Please vote in favor of restricting, even eliminating, plastic bags.
 Thanks.

Regards,
 Alan



Alan M. Pampanin
[Pampanin Law Offices](#)
 2343 Massachusetts Avenue
 Cambridge, MA 02140
 (T) 617-498-0900 (F) 617-876-0082



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From: Janice Meckstroth
To: [Aldermen](#)
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 4:56:18 PM

As a voter in Melrose I ask you to please support the BYO bag ordinance #2018-53! It is clearly the right choice for the environment and for Melrose. We can't justify continuing to assault our environment with plastic bags and ultimately, Melrose can't afford the financial cost of dealing with these bags in our waste stream. Change is always initially a challenge for people but they will quickly adapt. Don't let fear of grumbling stop you from doing the right thing!

Janice Meckstroth
83 East Foster, Melrose

--

Janice L. Meckstroth, PT, Ed. M.
617-957-1085 (mobile)

From: Sarah Schad
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Ban plastic bags
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 5:15:08 PM

Dear Members of the Board of Aldermen,

I am writing in support of an ordinance to ban plastic bags in Melrose. The environmental expense of plastic bags far outweighs the convenience that they provide. The residents of Melrose can and should be using reusable shopping bags. Most plastic bags do not get returned to stores to be recycled. A lot of people mistakenly put them in their curbside recycling bins and then they get tangled in the sorting machines at the JRM facility. Plastic bags are polluting our oceans and waterways and killing thousands of marine animals each year. Plastic bags do not biodegrade. They only break down into small pieces which marine animals mistake as food.

Plastic bags have been banned in over 50 cities and towns in Massachusetts along with numerous small and large cities across the country and even several states and countries. We need to do our part to reduce plastic bag pollution. I hope you will support an ordinance to ban plastic bags here in Melrose.

Sincerely,

Sarah Schad
16 Island Hill Ave #108
Melrose, MA

From: Laura Ettenberg
To: [Kamosa, Amy](#)
Subject: Re: plastic bag ordinance
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 5:37:02 PM

Thanks- here you go!

Dear Members of the Board of Aldermen,

I am writing in support of an ordinance to ban plastic bags in Melrose. The environmental expense of plastic bags far outweighs the convenience that they provide. The residents of Melrose can and should be using reusable shopping bags.

Most plastic bags do not get returned to stores to be recycled. A lot of people mistakenly put them in their curbside recycling bins and then they get tangled in the sorting machines at the JRM facility. Plastic bags are polluting our oceans and waterways and killing thousands of marine animals each year. Plastic bags do not biodegrade. They only break down into small pieces which marine animals mistake as food.

Plastic bags have been banned in over 50 cities and towns in Massachusetts along with numerous small and large cities across the country and even several states and countries. We need to do our part to reduce plastic bag pollution. I hope you will support an ordinance to ban plastic bags here in Melrose.

Sincerely,

Laura Ettenberg
 43 Stratford Rd
 Melrose, Ma 02176



Peace & Style
 Laura Ettenberg
[Hang It Up](#)
 516-639-4358

On Mon, Dec 4, 2017 at 4:45 PM, Kamosa, Amy <AKamosa@cityofmelrose.org> wrote:

Hi Laura,

In order to add your email to the official record for this ordinance proposal, it would be great if you could send the body of the email again in a different format. Either just paste in the body of

the email, or in a word doc. It looks like right now you have it in a google docs archive as email attachment.

Thanks

Amy

Amy Kamosa

Aldermanic Clerk of Committees
City Webmaster

City of Melrose

akamosa@cityofmelrose.org

[781-979-4100](tel:781-979-4100)

From: Laura Ettenberg [mailto:lauraettenberg@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, December 04, 2017 4:01 PM

To: Aldermen

Subject: plastic bag ordinance



Peace & Style

Laura Ettenberg

[Hang It Up](#)

[516-639-4358](tel:516-639-4358)

From: Lori Massa
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Plastic Bag Ordinance
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 5:48:30 PM

Dear Members of the Board of Aldermen,

I am writing in support of an ordinance to ban plastic bags in Melrose. Change can be hard at first but that is no reason not to do it. There are easy alternatives that people will quickly adjust to. Plastic bags have lasting negative impacts on the environment and the expense far outweighs the convenience that they provide.

Most plastic bags do not get returned to stores to be recycled. A lot of people mistakenly put them in their curbside recycling bins and then they get tangled in the sorting machines at the JRM facility.

Plastic bags are polluting our oceans and waterways and killing thousands of marine animals each year.

Plastic bags do not biodegrade. They only break down into small pieces which marine animals mistake as food.

Plastic bags have been banned in over 50 cities and towns in Massachusetts along with numerous small and large cities across the country and even several states and countries. We need to do our part to reduce plastic bag pollution. I hope you will support an ordinance to ban plastic bags here in Melrose.

Sincerely,

Lori Massa
145 Bellevue Ave

From: Beth Delahaij
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: In support of plastic bag ordinance
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 9:22:30 PM

Dear Members of the Board of Aldermen,

I am writing in support of an ordinance to ban plastic bags in Melrose. The environmental expense of plastic bags far outweighs the convenience that they provide. The residents of Melrose can and should be using reusable shopping bags.

Most plastic bags do not get returned to stores to be recycled. A lot of people mistakenly put them in their curbside recycling bins and then they get tangled in the sorting machines at the JRM facility.

Plastic bags are polluting our oceans and waterways and killing thousands of marine animals each year. Plastic bags do not biodegrade. They only break down into small pieces which marine animals mistake as food.

Plastic bags have been banned in over 50 cities and towns in Massachusetts along with numerous small and large cities across the country and even several states and countries. We need to do our part to reduce plastic bag pollution. Please support an ordinance to ban plastic bags here in Melrose.

Sincerely,

Beth Delahaij
35 Stevens Rd

From: Karen Gabler
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Bring Your Own Bag
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 9:36:31 PM

Dear Melrose Aldermen/Women,
I DO support the Bring your Own Bag Initiative.
Please vote this in,
Karen Gabler
199 Laurel Street
Melrose, MA

--



Karen Gabler > karen@gablersustainablebody.com

GABLER SUSTAINABLE BODY > 335 BROADWAY > CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

P 617-448-1285 > www.gablersustainablebody.com

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Six Beacon Street, Suite 1025, Boston, MA 02108
617-523-8448 jclarke@massaudubon.org

December 4, 2017

Dear Ms. McNeil,

I am writing to express Mass Audubon's support for the ordinance to reduce plastic bags that will be discussed at the Melrose Board of Aldermen meeting.

Mass Audubon encourages the use of reusable shopping bags as opposed to plastic or other one-time use bags to reduce solid waste and provide for overall environmental health. Over 100 billion plastic shopping bags are consumed in the US each year. Plastic bags are made of nonrenewable resources, and serve as a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, and marine litter. While it is true that a portion of plastic bags are re-used or recycled, millions of these bags end up along road sides, in waterways and floating in the ocean.

These single-use bags also pose a threat to sea turtles, whales, and other marine animals that die every year from eating plastic bags they mistake for food. Because they are made from polyethylene, which is made from crude oil and natural gas, plastic bags deplete valuable and costly nonrenewable resources.

With plastic bags washing up on the shores of the most remote areas on earth, countries across the globe are taking decisive action to reduce plastic bag use. The European Union, China, Australia, Bangladesh and dozens of other countries have successfully banned or introduced a tax on disposable plastic bags. Last November, California voters upheld the nation's first statewide plastic bag ban, despite significant opposition from industry.

Dozens of communities in Massachusetts have passed regulations on plastic bags, and many others are currently considering joining this list. Mass Audubon applauds the effort being made in Melrose to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags and contribute to a shift away from disposable, petroleum-based products.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John J. Clarke".

John J. Clarke
Director of Public Policy & Government Relations

Dear Members of the Board of Aldermen,

I am writing in support of an ordinance to ban plastic bags in Melrose. The environmental expense of plastic bags far outweighs the convenience that they provide. The residents of Melrose can and should be using reusable shopping bags.

Most plastic bags do not get returned to stores to be recycled. A lot of people mistakenly put them in their curbside recycling bins and then they get tangled in the sorting machines at the JRM facility. Plastic bags are polluting our oceans and waterways and killing thousands of marine animals each year. Plastic bags do not biodegrade. They only break down into small pieces which marine animals mistake as food.

Plastic bags have been banned in over 50 cities and towns in Massachusetts along with numerous small and large cities across the country and even several states and countries. We need to do our part to reduce plastic bag pollution. I hope you will support an ordinance to ban plastic bags here in Melrose.

Sincerely,

Angela Moore
23 Union Street
Melrose, MA 02176

----- Original message -----

From: Janine Venuti <jmvenuti@hotmail.com>
Date: 12/1/17 13:14 (GMT-05:00)
To: "Zwirko, Michael" <mzwirko@CityofMelrose.org>
Subject: Bag Options

Mary Beth

It has come to my attention that some well-meaning citizens of Melrose will be requesting the passage of a law banning plastic shopping bags in Melrose. I myself have re-useable shopping bags that I keep in my car or bike and use all the time. I find them easy to use but realize what is easy for me, may not always be for others. My parents are well into their senior years and have health issue, many daily task have become increasingly difficult and I don't want any additional difficulties imposed on them or others.

I would ask the Alderman to request the group find ways to encourage more use of re-useable bags, to ask stores to provide 100% recycle paper bags with handles at NO charge, similar to plastic at this time and let each resident decided what is best for them. To ask merchants if they can post signs reminding shoppers to bring in their own bags. If they are willing to offer a discount of the price of the plastic bag if people do and post a special sign stating so. Set up bins in convenient downtown location for people to drop of their plastic bags.

Many state that the bags are single use but many people myself (the ones I get from my parents) included use the bags again around the home. They have also suggested having merchants sell re-useable bags that people would purchase, however, they are asking people to pay for something that is currently free and may place an economic burden on others.

I'm asking that no changes be implemented that might make things more difficult for those for whom much has already become difficult. Instead of taking people options away, I would like to see more options available and allow everyone to choose what is best for their family throughout their life in Melrose.

Regards,

Janine

Janine Venuti
39 Altamont Ave.
Melrose, MA 02176

From: Demi Dubois
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Plastic Bag Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, December 05, 2017 9:09:40 PM

Dear Aldermen,

I am writing to express my utmost support for the Plastic Bag Ordinance.

There is no question in my mind that this type of intervention is crucial toward saving our environment and protecting the future of our planet.

In general, I think people are resistant to change. However, once policies are in place, it will only take a few weeks until people become adjusted to new ways of behavior. We will adapt.

Further, there are so many other communities near and far that are undertaking such measures. I would like to see Melrose at the forefront of change instead of lagging behind. Thank you.

Please pass the ordinance!

Sincerely,
Demi

Demi Dubois
15 Maple Street
Melrose

From: Betsy Giovanardi
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Plastic bag ordinance support
Date: Wednesday, December 06, 2017 9:05:23 AM

Dear Melrose Aldermen,

I have lived in Melrose for over 15 years and have 2 kids in the school system, am a teacher in MPS, and over-volunteer to help the community in various ways. I wanted to let you know that I would love to see Melrose **support the plastic bag ordinance**. I know there are those opposed for somewhat understandable reasons, but the truth is that once the residents get into the habit of bringing reusable bags, the ban will not be nearly forgotten about. I have been using them for many years and rarely forget. On those occasions when I forget to bring them, I rely on my backup bags that I keep in the car, and if those are not there, then I reluctantly use the paper bags available. If there are no paper bags available, then there are typically boxes made available.

There are two good examples of this practice currently in use in two retail stores (not in Melrose). If you visit Aldi grocery store in Malden, you will quickly notice that there are no free bags of any kind made available to consumers, though they are available for sale. It is amazing how shoppers have gotten into the habit of bringing their own bags or using the cardboard boxes available from the items being stocked. Similarly any trip to BJ's or Costco you will see the same such phenomenon. Again there are no bags available, so shoppers make do with the cardboard boxes, bring their own bag, or forego the bags altogether. When consumers find it in their best interest or not given another choice, they find a way. These stores still thrive even without the plastic bags and I am sure, with time and change of habit, so too will Melrose stores.

Thank you for your consideration and time,
Betsy Giovanardi

From: Lisa Tiemann
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Plastic bag ordinance
Date: Wednesday, December 06, 2017 9:20:09 AM

Dear Board of Aldermen,

Please add my name to the long list of people demanding a plastic bag ordinance. The damage done by plastics to the water, soil, and wildlife that sustain us has grown beyond any reasonable measure. Humans must take responsibility for what we give back to the earth.

You have probably already read many examples of the harm plastics cause to our environment and of their spread across oceans. We bear responsibility, and we can take measures to fix it. Please act quickly to limit plastic bag usage locally, so that Melrose can do its part in reversing the damage.

Sincerely,
Lisa Tiemann

--

Lisa B. Tiemann
GLASS AND STONE ARTS
60 Orris Street
Melrose, MA 02176 USA
781 662-6027
lisa.b.tiemann@gmail.com
lisa@lisatiemann.com
<http://www.lisatiemann.com>

From: Eben Cross
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Plastic bag ordinance
Date: Wednesday, December 06, 2017 10:58:34 AM

Hello -

I am writing in support of the ban on plastic bags that your committee will be reviewing in the coming weeks. As a resident of Melrose for the past 3.5 years, I am encouraged by the initiatives put forth that improve the sustainability of our daily routines in the city. I personally will seek out the local businesses that adopt and support this measure, and hope that the rule can be put into place without exceptions so that Melrose as a whole can continue to move forward with a lighter and lighter footprint.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important opportunity.

Eben Cross
245 Porter street

From: Kathleen Northrup Borenstein
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Plastic Bag Ordinance -- I am Against the Ordinance
Date: Wednesday, December 06, 2017 2:38:53 PM

Dear Board of Alderman:

My name is Kathleen Northrup Borenstein and I am a 37+ year Melrose resident who usually feels comfortable allowing my elected city leaders handle to responsibilities that they have generously agreed to take on as representatives of the citizens of Melrose without receiving my input. I do feel strongly that I must speak out about this proposed ban on "single use" plastic bags though for three reasons.

(1) I do not consider the plastic bags used currently at places like Shaws to be "single use."

I reuse each and every one of these bags provided to me. I am not sure why others would not reuse these bags but if they choose not to, there are opportunities that are readily and easily available to recycle these bags at the point of purchase or another grocery store. All the major grocery stores have areas for this recycling as do other establishments.

(2) The cost of these types of initiatives are passed along to the consumer as I have seen at the Cambridgeside Galleria where if you want a bag (Paper) you must pay for it.

finally and most importantly --

(3) If you do not want to use so called single use plastics bags, you don't have to accept them at the checkout.

You can bring your own bags. It is a choice. Simply stated -- no one is making you accept plastic bags against your will.

There is no store that I am aware of that forces you to accept their plastic bags in lieu of hand carrying or providing your own bags. I personally use a combination of self brought and store given bags and I feel strongly that this should continue to remain the consumer's choice.

For those that feel strongly about not using plastic bags, I support their efforts at educating the public about considerations that should be used when accepting plastics bags at store checkout. What I cannot support is plastic bags becoming "against the law" in Melrose.

Education combined with free choice is the way to go here.

Thank you for your consideration,
Kathleen N Borenstein
260 E Foster St

From: Steph Zabel
To: [Aldermen](#)
Cc: [Henry Kesner](#)
Subject: support for ban of plastic bags
Date: Wednesday, December 06, 2017 7:16:56 PM

Dear Aldermen,

I previously wrote to express my support of the ordinance to ban plastic bags in Melrose, but I wanted to write again on behalf of our household.

I think that this is a really important environmental and health issue that our city can make a positive contribution towards. Plastic bags litter our streets, clog up waterways, and negatively effect wildlife.

They also trash private property by getting caught in trees and are then very difficult to remove (please see attached photo of a plastic bag I found in my backyard just today!...)

More importantly, plastic bags take up many resources to make, and never degrade afterwards. Their use is wasteful and damaging. Switching to paper bags and reusable bags is an easy thing to do in the scheme of things.

Since we border the Fells I think it is also important that Melrose bans plastic bags to protect this beautiful natural area and all the wildlife that reside in it. We all want a clean, healthy city and environment for ourselves and our children, and banning plastic bags is a step towards this goal.

Thank you for your consideration and for making a difference in our city!

Sincerely,
Steph Zabel & Henry Kesner
N. High St.

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Flowerfolk Herbs : *everyday herbs for joyful living*
www.flowerfolkherbs.com

Herbstalk
www.herbstalk.org

From: Mary-Beth Santarelli
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: PLastic bag ban
Date: Wednesday, December 06, 2017 8:30:35 PM

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please support the vote for a plastic bag ban in Melrose. I have used reusable bags for years, and still have a huge stash of plastic bags left over from when I didn't use reusables. Also, I don't think seniors should be exempt. We grew up using paper bags; we can do so again.

Mary-Beth Santarelli
20 Garfield Rd.

From: Sally Spiers
To: [Lemmerman, Jennifer](#); [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Proposed Melrose Bag Ban
Date: Thursday, December 07, 2017 9:11:06 AM

Good morning,

I'm writing to express my support for the upcoming proposed retail ban on plastic bags - or the BYOBag Initiative.

I believe that reducing our carbon footprint and doing what we can to improve the health of our natural environment is one of the most important issues we face today (along with food, water and energy sustainability-all of which are environmental protection issues.) I see absolutely no reason why the good citizens of Melrose should not be asked to take the small step of providing their own bags when shopping.

Thanks!
Sally Spiers
(957 Main St., Melrose, MA)

From: Maribeth Darwin
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: I support the Melrose BYOBag initiative
Date: Thursday, December 07, 2017 11:02:51 AM

I would like to add my voice to the many in support of eliminating plastic bags in Melrose. I have not used plastic bags in years and my life has not been impacting in any way. Reusable bags are the way to go.

Thank you.
Maribeth Darwin
5 Meadowview Road
Melrose MA

From: Michelle Carson
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: BYOB Initiative
Date: Thursday, December 07, 2017 12:31:19 PM

Greetings!

I am writing to voice my support of the BYOB Initiative. Thank you for considering this proposal. I strongly encourage you to pass it.

Thank you,

Michelle Carson
110 Linwood Ave
Melrose MA

Sent from my wicked awesome smaht phone

From: Clare Gibson
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: BYOB proposal
Date: Thursday, December 07, 2017 12:43:50 PM

Hello -

I support the proposal to ban non-reuseable plastic bags in Melrose.

Clare Gibson
18 1st Street

From: Lisa Lewis
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: plastic bag ordinance
Date: Thursday, December 07, 2017 1:48:08 PM

Hello,

I am writing to express my support for the plastic bag ordinance. Plastic bags are horrible for the environment and a mess in our (and all) community. Anything that helps to reduce the amount of plastic waste in our community and world is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for your time and service, and have a wonderful holiday season.

Best,
Lisa

Lisa Lewis
18 Pine St.

From: Michelle Desveaux
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Plastic Bag Ordinance
Date: Thursday, December 07, 2017 3:55:59 PM

Dear Aldermen,

I am writing in support of enacting a plastic bag ordinance in Melrose.

With the UN (among others) predicting that by 2050 there will more plastic in our oceans than fish, plastic pollution is becoming an overwhelming problem contaminating our food supply and killing wildlife who mistake plastic particles for food or become entangled or otherwise compromised. In addition, there are studies that show human health is being adversely affected by the chemicals that make up throw away plastics causing hormonal imbalance and more.

We are waisting precious natural resources to manufacture billions of these unnecessary items that we often take out of habit and use for as little as 10 minutes before discarding them.

Eight Million tons of plastic are dumped into our oceans every single year! Hawaii and countries such as Canada, South Africa, Chili and Brazil see and feel the results of this wasteful practice wash up on their shores on a daily basis. As a result over 200 nations have pledged to reduce plastic pollution.

Lets do the right thing here in Melrose and join the 60 towns and cities in MA that have banned plastic bags. Getting into the habit of bringing our own bags when we shop is a small inconvenience when compared to the task of decontaminating our food supply, cleaning up our oceans, and dealing with the adverse health effects of pollution.

Sincerely,

Michelle Desveaux
53 Wentworth Road
Melrose, MA 02176

From: Burkholder, Kristin C.
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Bring your own bag!
Date: Thursday, December 07, 2017 6:21:20 PM

Hello,

My name is Kristi Burkholder and I'm a Melrose resident (6 Meadowview Rd.). I would love to see Melrose adopt the ban on plastic bags being considered!

Thank you,
Kristi Burkholder

Sent from my iPhone

From: John Norcross
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Melrose Plastic Bag Ordinance
Date: Thursday, December 07, 2017 9:21:15 PM

Hello,

I am very excited to see that an Alderman subcommittee will be considering transitioning to more sustainable options for Melrose. I have been a Melrose resident my entire life, and I completely support the move away from thin-film plastic bags. I think it is in keeping with what our values are and I feel comfortable with the switch because it has already been successfully implemented elsewhere. Thanks very much for seriously considering it!

Best regards,
Jack Norcross

From: ryan
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: Please vote in favor of Single Use Plastic Bag Ban
Date: Thursday, December 07, 2017 9:40:32 PM

Dear Aldermen of Melrose,

I'm tired of seeing trash everywhere in Melrose - this would be a good start. I helped to clean up Ell Pond earlier this year with my two sons and we were horrified by the amount of trash (including plastic bags) that we found around the pond. Now that Wakefield has passed a similar ban, I think Melrose is ready too - please vote to ban these awful bags. They truly are useless.

Thank you,

Ryan Blades (Ward 1 resident)

From: Heather and Thorsten Vogel
To: [Aldermen](#)
Subject: plastic bag ordinance for Melrose
Date: Thursday, December 07, 2017 9:49:41 PM

Our family is **100% in support** of the proposed plastic bag ordinance for Melrose. It's a great idea and just one of many ways that we can help protect the environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We have been bringing our own reusable bags for many years whenever we go grocery shopping and it's an engrained habit. Sometimes if we go non-grocery shopping at Target, Walmart, etc. and we forget to bring a bag from the trunk of our car, we either carry out what we buy (if it's just a couple items), or reluctantly accept a plastic bag--which we will then reuse at home for other purposes, or put it in another bag for recycling via Shaws, etc. What with bread bags, ziplock bags, and other recyclable plastic bags, it doesn't take long before we have a bag stuffed full for recycling, even though we do try to reduce & reuse bags as much as possible.

We had hoped that stores would charge customers a small fee for plastic bags to encourage people to BYOBag, but the stores just keep handing out those (often flimsy) bags for free. It's nice though that Whole Foods gives us 5 cents for each reusable bag we bring. For the people that don't remember or don't like to bring reusable bags, then recyclable paper bags should work just fine, even if they might have to be double bagged. Same for restaurants--paper bags are quite adequate for takeout, and a few places that we eat at (such as a Thai restaurant in Stoneham) already use paper bags. If stores or restaurants are concerned about the increased expense with reusable or recyclable paper bags, then they can simply charge the customers who don't bring their own bags. Hopefully soon everyone will be in the BYOBag habit.

Sincerely,

Heather Vogel and family
1 Patriot Way, Melrose