

198251 : Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance**Meeting** 10/15/2015 6:00 PM**Vote Results****October 15, 2015 6:00 PM**  spacerKept in Committee

198251

Mr. Sellers-Garcia discussed the use of petroleum and natural gas in the production of plastic bags. He also discussed how different bags are produced and how reusable bags are classified, adding that some plastic bags could be reusable. Mr. Weiner stated his concern regarding using paper bags in the rain.

Alderman Lafuente spoke about shopping habits and is in full support of a total ban on plastic bags. He does not anticipate any hardships for the business community. Alderman Heuston suggested that seniors be provided with reusable bags. Alderman Ballantyne spoke about Stop and Shop bags and how one knows what a bag is “predominately” made of. She would like to see samples of various bags along with pricing information. Alderman Sullivan is interested in exemptions for small businesses and said that the ban could be a disadvantage to the immigrant community. Mr. Mackey explained how small businesses are exempted in other municipalities and suggested giving 12 months notice before any implementation. Alderman White suggested that OSE provide language for the ordinance along with a list of allowable bags. He asked that further regulations be promulgated to define what is considered a reusable bag. Alderman Niedergang would like the proposed ordinance to be passed soon and to take effect of the 1st day of the month, 6 months after passage. Alderman McLaughlin does not believe that a thicker bag is the answer and would like to provide alternatives. He does not believe that the proposed ordinance will be enforced, adding that if a ban is implemented, he would like a total ban with hardship exemptions. Members of the public would like to assist with educating businesses about the proposed changes.

Alderman Niedergang’s motion *to delete “February 1, 2016” from the first sentence in Section 4 and to leave the effective date blank, for now*, was approved.

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