

**198251 : Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance****Meeting** 11/19/2015 6:00 PM**Vote Results****November 19, 2015 6:00 PM**  Approved as Amended

The committee examined samples of various plastic bags. Mr. Sellers-Garcia discussed the most recent revisions to the proposed ordinance and said that definitions need to be clear and that public education on the issue would be beneficial. Alderman White expressed his concern for small business owners who might have problems with compliance. Mr. Sellers-Garcia stated that the proposed ordinance would be enforced one year after its passage and he discussed the time line stores may need to adopt. Alderman Niedergang objects to the one year waiting period and believes that the environment is more important than the cost of bags purchased by a business. Mr. Boukili spoke about the need for a communication strategy and said that six months is not enough time. Seventeen percent of Somerville businesses contain over 10,000 square feet of space. Alderman White requested that the city provide assistance to businesses impacted by this ordinance. Alderman White would also like to give businesses 2 weeks to remedy an initial warning and asked that there be at least 2 weeks between the issuance of first and second offenses.

The following change proposed by Alderman Niedergang was approved:

- businesses of 10,000 s/f and larger shall have 9 months to comply and all other businesses shall have 12 months to comply.

---

Powered by **Granicus**