

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA  
HEALTH NEEDS AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR REDUCING THE USE AND PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED  
WITH PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS IN SITKA**

- WHEREAS**, between 500 billion and 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide each year. Sitka grocers alone distribute over 2 million plastic bags annually; and
- WHEREAS**, degrading plastics are leaching toxic chemicals such as bisphenol A into the seas, threatening ocean animals and humans who can ingest contaminated fish and mammals; and
- WHEREAS**, plastic bags account for over 10% of the debris washed upon US coastlines according to the National Marine Debris Monitoring Program; and
- WHEREAS**, plastic bags photodegrade and over time they break down into smaller particles which eventually contaminate our soil, sand, and waterways according to research; and
- WHEREAS**, plastic shopping bags are made from polyethylene, a thermoplastic made from oil and using fewer plastic bags will correspondingly reduce our dependence on oil; and
- WHEREAS**, less than 1% of plastic bags are recycled because it costs more to recycle a plastic bag than to make a new one; and
- WHEREAS**, dozens of communities in the US, including Cordova, Bethel, and Hooper Bay in Alaska, have adopted policies that have successfully reduced plastic bag use; and
- WHEREAS**, fishing is one of Sitka's main industries and seafood is a one of the main foods consumed on our island. Pollution from plastic bags can negatively impact the industry and the consumer; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Health Needs and Human Services Commission of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska supports the work of the "Bags for Change" volunteer group and supports a policy based, systemic change to reduce single use plastic bags in Sitka, Alaska.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the Health Needs and Human Services Commission of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2017.

  
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Doug Osborne, Chair  
Health Needs and Human Services Commission

ATTEST:

  
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Melissa Henshaw, CMC  
Deputy Clerk