

3 PRIMROSE STREET
NEWTOWN, CT 06470
TEL. (203) 270-4201
FAX (203) 270-4205
www.newtown-ct.gov



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 3 PRIMROSE STREET, NEWTOWN, CT JUNE 5, 2019

MINTUES

PRESENT: Chris Eide, Chris Smith, Jordana Bloom, Robert Pickard, Judit DeStefano, Ryan Knapp, Dan Wiedemann, Paul Lundquist, Phil Carroll, Kelley Johnson, Jay Mattegat, Dan Honan.

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Finance Director Robert Tait, 75 public, 2 press.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Lundquist called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 8:35 pm.

VOTER COMMENT: None.

MINUTES: MR. WIEDEMANN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 15, 2019 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING. SECOND BY MR. CARROLL. MOTION PASSES. (12-0)

COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Lundquist said there will be an annual tour of Garner Correctional Facility at 10 am, June 25. Communications received attached. (ATTACHMENT)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT: As mentioned at the last Legislative Council meeting, First Selectman Rosenthal said there are some issues with roads that were chip sealed, he shared with the vendor, residents will be notified, crews will be sent back at the vendor's expense, will share list of roads.

State budget – municipal budget preserved, issue of teacher pensions not passed on, will share analysis prepared by Mr. Tait, there could be a rescission. Mr. Rosenthal said expansion of sales tax, impact on tax payers, do not know decision on tolls yet. No answer with FEMA, but should know within the next month.

Transfer – the Legislative Council, and Board of Finance, will need to be present at the next Board of Selectmen meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 to take action on a transfer from various accounts to Capital regarding paving at the community center and senior center. Mr. Lundquist asked for Legislative Council members to advise him if they cannot attend.

7 Glen Road property - start to work on the lease, working with SHOP, the Board of Selectmen may soon take action and then will come to the Legislative Council.

Mr. Wiedemann asked about the Community Center budget, First Selectman Rosenthal said they have had a meeting with the construction manager, architect, attorney, and are pursuing a parallel tract.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Proposed Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance

MS. DESTEFANO MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION ORDINANCE AS PUT FORWARD BY THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE. SECOND BY MR. EIDE.

Ms. DeStefano said that the committee heard from constituents that emailed, a total 174 emails, 138 were in favor, 36 not in favor. The committee worked hard to put forward the best ordinance, this hybrid ban helps, the state will phase out plastic bags by 2021, paper is not a good alternative, encourage the reusable, and not single use products, in order to change behaviors there needs to be a fee, can make it work as a community.

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Mr. Mattegat said there should have been more information about what it would cost the Town to enforce the ordinance, contract negotiation, and since it would not go into effect for 4 months, could it be put on the ballot at election time and give tax payers the opportunity to voice opinion.

Ms. DeStefano responded by referring to the enforcement of other ordinances such as the blight ordinance, pedaling and solicitation ordinance, fracking ordinance, and other ordinances, the same effect as the need arises, the First Selectman's office will deal with that, but no contracts need to be revised. Public vote doesn't apply to ordinances.

Ms. Bloom said the plastic bag ban has been out in the public, 4 to 1 letters received are in favor of the ordinance, the fee imposed for stores is to help the stores, trying to change consumer behavior. It would cost money to put out to a vote.

Mr. Knapp pointed out that the emails received have been from people out of town as well as people who live or work in Newtown, is there a field to add street address to be able to sort communications by in-town / out-of-town. Mr. Lundquist said that is a good process note going forward. First Selectman Rosenthal said, citing FOIA, an address could be optional but not mandatory.

Mr. Smith said that initially he was against the fee, but after learning the statistics about the fees proving to make the ban success, it changed his mind. He thanked former First Selectman Pat Llodra for initiating the plastic bag ban 6 years ago. Mr. Eide cautioned of how we are framing the fee, paper bags are not free, costs are passed to the consumer, this ban can help the consumer can save money, it is pro-business and pro-consumer.

Ms. Johnson recollected using the same reusable bag from 8 years ago, a result of a San José ordinance, a charge made the ordinance effective, reusable bags can be washed, reused, and save money in the long run, this is imperfect legislation, buy a positive change, the council is not the enemy, plastic is the enemy.

Mr. Knapp said this developing this ordinance has been a long process, an effort of trying to solve a problem, a compelling fact came from feedback from Public Works, plastic bags get caught in machines, staff needs to stop work, remove them from the machine, there is a lot of plastic out there. It would be preferable if people reduced plastic by mutual consent, some businesses would prefer to see something done at the state level, also an education component is important, like for people to know there are places to recycle bags, not comfortable mandating a store's behavior. MR. KNAPP MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO STRIKE THE AREAS IN THE ORDINANCE THAT STORES MANDATE FEES. SECOND BY MR. WIEDEMANN.

Mr. Knapp said to be friendly to businesses, the language is already written, we can add the fee component later, 10 cents does not change behavior, he has faith in Newtown, and by being informed, many Newtown residents would make changes.

Mr. Wiedemann believes that plastic bags should be banned, but does not agree with the fee, he would prefer to see stores take it on, like Costco.

Ms. Bloom noted that the other towns that have passed hybrid bans learned that the fee is essential.

Ms. DeStefano added that there is an administrative cost to the stores, not that the state is imposing the bill, the retailer will be paid the 10 cents.

First Selectman Rosenthal said with the state legislation, you will have to pay the state.

Ms. DeStefano said there will be an administrative fee anyway.

Mr. Eide read the legislation ...

Mr. Lundquist said the state passed legislation that full ban by 2021. Paul explained at 9:17

Mr. Knapp said that he has heard the facts of how bag paper bags are, why are we not banning them too.

Mr. Carroll said a town government is over reaching and interfering. He supports the amendment.

Ms. Bloom is worried that if we do not do this, there is a concern that people will give the paper bags out, leading to more problems.

Mr. Pickard said that the Big Y was going to do away with plastic bags and wondered what merchants think.

Mr. Lundquist said it may have been difficult for merchants to speak in public, there has been some concern.

Mr. Wiedemann asked store managers, they refused to state any public opinion, from 2 or 3 stores.

Ms. DeStefano said has received anecdotal feedback, falling on both sides, not compelling urgency, maybe some reluctance, other towns that have implemented have not seen economic repercussions, heard it may be beneficial.

Ms. Bloom said spoke with managers of stores, it was ok, and corporate said no, some prefer no ban.

Mr. Lundquist spoke to the amendment, would like to support it, but as he learned more, heard research statistics, by not having a fee would encourage migration from plastic to paper and that is a negative, heard compelling economic argument, landing with a strong argument to have a fee.

Ms. Johnson said that businesses may not want to weigh into political waters, there is fiduciary responsibility.

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Mr. Knapp said some of the comments said businesses would prefer to see this on the state level, they don't like the town telling them what to do, it should be the stores choice, there is a lack of awareness and education.

MOVE TO AMEND FAILS. (8-4) (Mr. Knapp, Mr. Wiedemann, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Mattegat)

Mr. Knapp said he cannot support the ordinance because it includes a charge.

First Selectman Rosenthal said, referring to the Public Hearing comments tonight from Jennifer Heaton-Jones, the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority is not supporting local ordinances, she wrote testimony as part of the budget process, First Selectman Rosenthal thinks it should be handled at the state level.

Mr. Carroll said he would agree with the ordinance, but feels with the fee it is government overreach, would have supported it if amended.

Ms. DeStefano said supports the ordinance as proposed and believes it will make a positive impact.

Mr. Eide said in light of state legislation he supports it, without a fee it will drive people to paper.

MAIN MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED PLASTIC BAG BAN ORDINANCE AS PUT FORWARD BY THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE PASSES. (8-4) (Mr. Wiedemann, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Mattegat)

Proposed Board of Education Election Ordinance

MR. KNAPP MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION ORDINANCE.

SECOND BY MR. WIEDEMANN. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSES. (12-0)

Transfer \$175,000 Public Works – Inter-department except \$3,000 from Registrars

MR. WIEDEMANN MOVED TO TRANSFER \$175,000 PUBLIC WORKS – INTER-DEPARTMENT EXCEPT \$3,000 FROM REGISTRARS. SECOND BY MR. SMITH. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSES. (12-0)

A Resolution providing a special appropriation, \$7,858.20 to be funded from the Sandy Hook Special Revenue Fund “Undesignated” donation account

MR WIEDEMANN MOVED A RESOLUTION PROVIDING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION, \$7,858.20 TO BE FUNDED FROM THE SANDY HOOK SPECIAL REVENUE FUND “UNDESIGNATED” DONATION ACCOUNT. SECOND BY MR EIDE. Mr. Lundquist said this is regarding a memorial plaque for the victims. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSES. (12-0)

VOTER COMMENT: *Tony Filiato, 24 Washbrook Road* - watched a local town council interfere with the market, noticed changed people's behavior social engineering on a local level, noticed doesn't stop anyone for bringing single use bags to the store, people can hand them out for free.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

June Sgobbo, Clerk

Attachments: Communications, Newtown Draft Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance, BOE Elections Ordinance, PW Transfer Request, Special Appropriation from the Sandy Hook Special Revenue Fund

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
AT THE NEXT MEETING.**

From: **Lyn Chatham via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Thu, Jun 6, 2019 at 5:30 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com> Submitted on Thursday, June 6, 2019 - 5:30pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Lyn Chatham

Your e-mail address: lincct@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic Bags

Message: Do not Institute a town tax on plastic bags. Wait until the state of

From: **Joseph DiCristina via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Thu, Jun 6, 2019 at 2:50 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>Submitted on Thursday, June 6, 2019 - 2:50pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Joseph DiCristina

Your e-mail address: dicrisjo@netzero.net

Subject: 05Jun19 Public Notice Hearings for Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance

Message:

Comments after attending the 05Jun19 Public Notice Hearings for Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance

The environmental effects of plastic bag use are questionable, converse to public opinion. Plastic bags are made from polyethylene, which is processed ethylene, a byproduct of oil production. There have been many photos of oil well published with flames visible at the top of the wells. Ethylene can be seen being burned. However, the ethylene can be captured and used to make plastic bags. There is a choice: burn the ethylene and produce greenhouse gases, or make plastic bags out of it. Banning plastic bags will cause more ethylene to be burned and release more greenhouse gasses into the air.

Many people testified that plastic bags are affecting the ocean and marine life. The Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 prevents US ocean dumping. If there is plastic being dumped into the ocean, it is not from Newtown CT. Banning plastic bags in Newtown will not prevent other countries from polluting the ocean.

Paper bags are demonized, but are made from renewable sources. The days of clear cutting forests by paper companies are long gone, and any harvest of trees are replanted. This also results in good forest management where overgrowth is maintained to prevent forest fires. Poor forest management has resulted in many wild fires in the western US. Forest fires kill wild life instead of allowing animals to relocate.

Paper bags have also been criticized as inferior products, however experience shows if properly packed, the bags don't break.

Banning plastic bags does not solve the problem. There is still a multitude of plastic film to dispose of including shrink wrap, bags not included in the ordinance, and packing materials.

In order to address the issue completely, a plastic film recycling program is necessary. A recycling program can address 100% of plastic material. A plastic bag ban does not address the whole problem, and still requires a recycling program to address the remainder. The same logic could have been used to ban aluminum cans in the past. We know now that recycling aluminum was the correct solution. Why should plastic film be different?

Newtown seems intent on following the actions of other towns in banning plastic bags. Newtown would be better off following the lead of Middletown CT and their participation in the CT WRAP initiative to make plastic recycling options available to residents. This allows 100% of plastic film (including plastic bags) to be recycled.

I am against a program that does not completely solve an issue. Banning plastic bags does not address all the plastic film generated and disposed of by Newtown residents. Banning ordinances are used by governments when a complete solution can not be found. Instead of banning an issue, the better solution is to fix the entire problem. Institute a recycling program that can address 100% of plastic film disposal, not just a portion of it.

If the ordinance is passed, ensure the description specifically calls out plastic bags made of polyethylene. There may be choices of biodegradable plastic in the future that should be exempt from the ban.

Thank you.

Joseph DiCristina
24 Ashford Lane.

From: **Lynn Hungaski via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Thu, Jun 6, 2019 at 9:23 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>Submitted on Thursday, June 6, 2019 - 9:23am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Lynn Hungaski

Your e-mail address: lynnhungaski@cs.com

Subject: Big Y

Message: I just remembered another comment Angelo, the manager of Big Y, said

to me this morning. He said "without the 10 cent fee, we would have raised prices on everything to pay for those paper bags". Just wanted you to know that.

From: **Lynn Hungaski via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Thu, Jun 6, 2019 at 8:31 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>Submitted on Thursday, June 6, 2019 - 8:31am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Lynn Hungaski

Your e-mail address: lynnhungaski@cs.com

Subject: Big Y and the ban

Message:

I just wanted you to know that I went to Big Y this morning and spoke to Angelo who is the manager. When I told him that the Plastic bag ban had passed with the \$.10 charge on paper bags he said and I quote "Excellent! That will cover our costs!" And then he fist-bumped me. Rest easy, you did the right thing last night for the businesses of Newtown. Thank you so much for your leadership on this issue.

From: **Pat Ilodra via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, Jun 5, 2019 at 10:10 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>Submitted on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 - 10:10pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Pat Ilodra

Your e-mail address: patilodra@aol.com

Subject: Plastic bag ordinance action

Message:

Thank you sincerely LC members for all you do in your service to Newtown. I am very pleased with the outcome of the vote this evening and feel that Newtown (and the world) is just a little bit better tomorrow because of your action tonight. I found the comments and concepts put forth by each of you to be thoughtful, well expressed, sincere, and honest. There is no question in my mind but that each of you acted in what you consider to be the best interest of our community. You each have been patient, tolerant, resourceful, committed, and insightful. What you have in common with each other is greater than what divides you. Newtown is well served.

From: **Mark Buchta via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, Jun 5, 2019 at 6:51 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>Submitted on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 -

6:51pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Mark Buchta

Your e-mail address: mdbucht@charter.net

Subject: Proposed Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance

Message:

I have some comments/observations regarding the Proposed Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance.

The ordinance as written attempts to address two separate and distinct items

that are unrelated, except for the fact they are both bags, within the same ordinance. Plastic and Paper should be addressed completely separately as they do not share anything in common from cradle to grave. They are produced from completely separate and distinct components, most likely in separate facilities. They are recycled in different facilities using different methods. If the town plans to address Plastic bags and Paper bags they should be in completely separate and distinct Ordinances. The ordinance title alone would be erroneous if it contains verbiage relating to both plastic and paper bags. If they aren't separated into two separate ordinances then the ordinance title should be more generic so as to address both types, something more like Checkout Bag Reduction Ordinance.

As regards the proposed bag fee I would question what right government has to Dictate to a commercial enterprise that they Must collect a fee on a commodity(when this isn't a 'tax' going to the government but something the commercial enterprise would keep)? Government should not be dictating a Minimum fee to be collected, as the ordinance currently indicates. At most, government could indicate a maximum fee, or cap, that an enterprise could collect if they so desired. It should be up to the discretion of the enterprise as to if they charge for a bag or not. Having the requirement that if an enterprise charges for a bag that it be itemized on the checkout slip is good, but not requiring it be collected. Something that seems to be completely overlooked is that today, and for decades past, the commercial enterprises this ordinance would apply to have provided bags (both paper and plastic) to customers without any additional cost at checkout. The cost of these bags is built into the enterprises overhead, or in other words added into the cost of items on the shelf. Requiring enterprises to collect a bag fee that they keep increases their profit margins, does not help reduce product costs to consumers, and potentially places a further financial burden on those same consumers. This is not governments purpose.

This ordinance will not eliminate plastic bags in town. It may reduce the amount of plastic litter but not eliminate it. The ordinance itself has exceptions for certain plastic bags. In addition there are plenty of stores in surrounding towns providing plastic bags. Until the State implements a plastic bag ban this is not going to have a drastic effect on CT plastic

litter. Even then there is the potential for plastic litter coming from out of state. And what about all the other plastic litter, such as plastic bottles? The proposed ordinance is certainly a step in the right direction but I believe needs to be further modified to address the issues raised above.

From: **Joanna Rosen via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, Jun 5, 2019 at 3:13 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 - 3:13pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Joanna Rosen

Your e-mail address: joanna5rosen@gmail.com

Subject: Support of plastic bag ban

Message:

Council members,

I am writing to express my complete support of the plastic bag ban. I am unable to attend tonight's meeting due to after school events as well as my son's birthday. However, I am proud of our town's efforts and sincerely hope that this ban passes tonight.

On a recent visit to a small college town in Pennsylvania, a young store clerk asked me upon my purchase, "Would you prefer to use your own bag or would you like to purchase a paper bag for \$.10?" It was a smooth and flawless transition to our universal recognition that our environment matters.

Thank you for your efforts,

Joanna Rosen
60 Sugar Lane

From: **Laura Dorr via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, Jun 5, 2019 at 1:50 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>Submitted on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 - 1:50pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Laura Dorr

Your e-mail address: laura.dorr11@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic bags

Message: Banning plastic bags is an easy no brainer way to help save/protect the planet

From: **Allison Palermo via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, Jun 5, 2019 at 1:42 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 - 1:42pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Allison Palermo

Your e-mail address: albobp5@earthlink.net

Subject: Ban of Plastic Bags

Message: I've been a resident of Newtown for over 20 years and I fully support the ban of plastic bags in our community. Although many people are resistant to change, this is a simple and important step towards making a safer and healthier environment for all. Before long it will be second nature to grab your reusable bags and head off to the store.

From: Lynn Hungaski via Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, Jun 5, 2019 at 1:42 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 - 1:42pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Lynn Hungaski

Your e-mail address: lynnhungaski@cs.com

Subject: Plastic bag ban ordinance

Message: Please do the right thing and pass the hybrid plastic bag ban ordinance as it is currently proposed, including the \$.10 charge on paper bags. It is the right thing to do for the environment, it is the right to do for the health of our town and it's citizens, and it is the right thing to do for the future of our children. We are all counting on you!

From: **Bindu Subramanian via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, Jun 5, 2019 at 12:52 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 - 12:52pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Bindu Subramanian

Your e-mail address: bindu.subramanian@gmail.com

Subject: Support for the Bag Ban

Message:

Hello,

As a resident of Newtown, I am writing today to express my full support for the proposed plastic bag ban and charge on paper. The only way to move forward is to reuse, and unfortunately, neither single-use plastic or paper bags will lend itself to that. While it may look harmless, paper bags actually are not the alternative to plastic bags. My father worked for the paper manufacturing industry for several years, and I have first hand knowledge about the amount of energy it takes to manufacture and transport paper. Having grown up in several countries prior to moving to America, I have seen successful bag bans implemented in several of those countries, some a lot more stringent than the one in the ordinance drafted here. In many of these places, it was usually a small town that led the effort. The people

have also adapted really well, and the stores are not impacted by this either. To the contrary, people and the stores are proud of what they were able to accomplish, and how they are paving the way for a better future. I urge you to please consider the ban, and pass it with the charge on paper, as it is the right thing to do. Let Newtown lead America by example. Thank you!

From: **Tunde Cseh via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Tue, Jun 4, 2019 at 10:29 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Tuesday, June 4, 2019 - 10:29pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Tunde Cseh

Your e-mail address: tucsi@sbcglobal.net

Subject: Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance

Message:

To Whom it May Concern:

Kindly record my Opposition to the proposed Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance.

Respectfully,

Tunde Cseh

21 Pine Tree Hill Rd

Newtown, CT 06470

From: **Sarah Middeleer via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Tue, Jun 4, 2019 at 8:14 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Tuesday, June 4, 2019 - 8:14pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Sarah Middeleer

Your e-mail address: swmiddeleer@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic bag ban

Message:

Hello,

I wish to submit a comment regarding the meeting tomorrow on the proposed plastic bag ban. I am in favor of this ban. It is time we all do what we can to limit plastic bag pollution, especially in waterways and the ocean. It is heartbreaking to hear about sea turtles and whales, etc, who are found dead with their guts full of plastic bags. I am also in favor of the proposed ten-cent charge for paper bags, as reusable bags are readily available. The argument that these bags breed germs can be rebutted with the suggestion of washing them periodically. Hanging them to dry in the sun will provide additional protection.

From: **John Fletcher via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Tue, Jun 4, 2019 at 8:09 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Tuesday, June 4, 2019 - 8:09pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: John Fletcher

Your e-mail address: jpffetch62@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic bag ban

Message: I'm writing in support of the proposed plastic bag ban. There are obviously many aspects of this issue, but the Council has apparently considered them thoroughly and balanced practical exceptions with the overall intent to make an important positive impact. This is a step in the right direction and is in line with where other towns are already moving.

From: **Jennifer Killin via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Tue, Jun 4, 2019 at 2:29 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Tuesday, June 4, 2019 - 2:29pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Jennifer Killin

Your e-mail address: jenkillin@yahoo.com

Subject: Support for plastic bag ban WITH fee for paper

Message:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the well-researched and thoughtfully written plastic bag ban submitted by the ordinance committee. No other town in CT has made such an effort to do right by both the environment and its residents. The Newtown ban, as written, is about as perfect as it could possibly be. A mandatory fee for paper bags is absolutely essential for the success of any ordinance that attempts to ban plastic bags. Without it, retailers and shoppers would simply switch to paper, which, in addition to being as detrimental to the environment as plastic, is far more expensive for retailers. This would harm everyone.

Connecticut is working on a state-wide ban, but it would not go into effect until 2021, and likely would not be as successful as Newtown's ban. The environment cannot wait. Banning plastic bags in Newtown is a logical step toward becoming a more eco-friendly town and ensuring a healthy environment for future generations.

The Newtown Environmental Action Team is providing bins around town the drop off of unneeded reusable bags, which will then be laundered and offered to those who need them. Everyone who wants reusable bags will have access to them, free of charge. There is NO legitimate reason not to pass this ban.

Thank you.

From: **Mary Wilson via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Tue, Jun 4, 2019 at 11:10 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Tuesday, June 4, 2019 - 11:10am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Mary Wilson

Your e-mail address: mhgwilson@sbcglobal.net

Subject: Plastic Bag Ordinance

Message: Please vote YES on the plastic bag ordinance which will be presented at the June 5 Council meeting. This ordinance has been well crafted to represent the most efficient and acceptable policy regarding one-use plastic bags. It has been shown in many towns that banning plastic bags not only works and is accepted by the public, but is also an excellent way to show our concern and understanding that non-sustainable policies are in dire need of updates. This is an easy one!! Please vote YES. Thank you.

From: **Marcia Funk via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Mon, Jun 3, 2019 at 4:25 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Monday, June 3, 2019 - 4:25pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Marcia Funk

Your e-mail address: MarciaLFunk@gmail.com

Subject: plastic bags

Message: Every time you turn around there is a new fee. The few plastic bags I get from stores I reuse as garbage bags which I take to the dump. What is more harmful to the environment is the hard clamshell plastic packaging used in stores. With this era of science and technology, no one has come up with a recycling process like we have for soda cans and plastic bottles?

From: **Judy Do via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Mon, Jun 3, 2019 at 3:56 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Monday, June 3, 2019 - 3:56pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Judy Do

Your e-mail address: judydcdo@yahoo.com

Subject: June 5th Plastic Bag hearing

Message: As a resident of Newtown, CT, my friends and family strongly believe that Newtown should take steps toward banning single-use plastic bags and items, such as plastic straws, cups, utensils, etc. Major franchises, such as Aldi's, have successfully operated without the use of single use plastic bags. Customers and residents will know to purchase reusable cloth bags that will reduce pollution piling up in landfills and oceans, as well as carbon emissions. It will also save money for our local grocery stores and restaurants. Overall, banning plastic bags has many more pros than cons for our residents, businesses, and planet.

From: **Jessica Nguyen via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Mon, Jun 3, 2019 at 3:31 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Monday, June 3, 2019 - 3:31pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Jessica Nguyen

Your e-mail address: jdbcnguyen@gmail.com

Subject: June 5th hearing - opinion regarding single use plastic bags

Message: As a resident of Newtown, CT, my friends and family strongly believe that Newtown should take steps toward banning single-use plastic bags and items, such as plastic straws, cups, utensils, etc. Major franchises, such as Aldi's, have successfully operated without the use of single use plastic bags. Customers and residents will know to purchase reusable cloth bags that will reduce pollution piling up in landfills and oceans, as well as carbon emissions. It will also save money for our local grocery stores and restaurants. Overall, banning plastic bags has many more pros than cons for our residents, businesses, and planet.

From: Nicole Tilbe via Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Mon, Jun 3, 2019 at 12:56 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Monday, June 3, 2019 - 12:56pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Nicole Tilbe

Your e-mail address: nicolemtilbe@hotmail.com

Subject: Plant Bag Ban - Vote No Please

Message:

Good day,

There is no reason to legislate this way. There are many people who bring their own bags. People also do recycle and reuse those plastic bags for use at home. If these bags are banned, people will buy more plastic products anyway. A better idea is providing recycling bins for these plastic bags, as town recycling does not take them. Please leave this decision to individuals.

Many thanks.

From: **Jackie Matthews via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Mon, Jun 3, 2019 at 11:16 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Monday, June 3, 2019 - 11:16am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Jackie Matthews

Your e-mail address: jgmatthews23@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic Bags

Message:

Plastic bags are a constant norm in our environment. When we go to the grocery store, they are almost always in the hands of those who walk out with their groceries. While their convenience is significant, plastic bags come at a very high cost to the environment and negatively affects human health. Many cities around the world have begun banning the use of plastic bags while others have enforced restricted laws against the use of plastic bags because

of the negative effects of the use.

A main reason why you should consider the ban of plastic bags is because the production of plastic bags themselves require lots of energy. In order to drive a car half a mile, it requires the same amount of energy that is used to produce nine plastic bags. With the average useful lifespan of a plastic bag being only 12 minutes, it is irrational to use such amounts of non-renewable energy on something that can be easily swapped with a reusable bag that is not only better for the environment, but holds more at the same time.

In addition, even if we decide to recycle plastic bags, they will still be a cost no matter their benefits. Plastic bags have many external costs that add up. Even greater than their production and purchasing costs, there are many costs that include the true environmental costs of resource extraction and depletion, the loss of quality of life, economic loss from littering, and wildlife loss. Often times, these costs are not included in a majority of economic analyses, however the most recent United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) calculation estimated approximately \$75 billion a year from plastic bags alone.

Lastly, plastic bags are harming all species on the planet, humans and animals. Due to their lightweight, plastic bags get easily picked up by wind and travel long distances by wind and water to pollute the nature. There have been an unfortunate amount of animals- especially sea creatures that have been negatively affected and suffocated from the use of plastic bags.

Thank you in advance for taking time to read this letter, along with making a decision that will benefit the town of Newtown. Your work is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

Jackie Matthews

From: **Catherine Pendergast via Newtown CT**<cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Mon, Jun 3, 2019 at 11:01 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Monday, June 3, 2019 - 11:01am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Catherine Pendergast

Your e-mail address: cathepen643@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic Pollution

Message:

Hello, my name is Catherine Pendergast,

I am from Newtown High School. Recently my Public Health class and I had a stand in our schools health fair, and we presented on Ocean Pollution. We shared many facts about how ocean pollution affects animals and our planet. Doing this project made me realize how greatly our world is affected by plastic and other objects that pollute the oceans and land. We focused mainly

on straws for this project, but other objects too. One object that can be seen almost anywhere, is plastic bags. These bags can be very dangerous to the animals living in the oceans, and around our planet. Around 8 million metric tons of plastic ends up in our oceans, killing animals, and slowly suffocating our planet. Banning these bags would prevent many sea animals from dying, and create less of a patch of garbage in our ocean, so that we can slowly reverse the negative predictions for our future planet. These bags are also made from Fossil Fuels, which is causing great effects on our planet's health. Being made from these dangerous polymers, the bags take very long to break down, staying on our planet for almost 1,000 years, continue to affect the lives of many animals. These plastic bags are not necessary to life, and there are many alternatives that can be used instead. Newtown uses many plastic bags, yet this can be changed if we were to ban them, and many changed over to other options, to help save the planet.

Catherine Pendergast

43 Totem trail, Sandy Hook

From: **Morgan Sclafani via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Mon, Jun 3, 2019 at 11:00 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Monday, June 3, 2019 - 11:00am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Morgan Sclafani

Your e-mail address: ms1916@newtownps.org

Subject: Banning Plastic Bags

Message:

To whom it may concern,

My name is Morgan Sclafani and I am a senior at Newtown High School. While working on our final project, my classmates and I discovered how harmful plastic bags are for our environment. Imagine how many plastic bags you use each week and how many of those you end up throwing away. Maybe it's takeout or a trip to the grocery store, and that trip to the grocery store might result in something being double-bagged depending on its weight. While these These single-use plastic bags come free with most purchases if not all of them, we assign them zero value. If it doesn't cost us anything than it doesn't matter. But what people don't understand is although it is a free commodity, plastic bags truly have a cost. An extreme ecological cost.

The amount of time you actually use a plastic bag for is nothing compared to thousands of years they take to decompose. While researchers have found that if a plastic bag reaches the ocean it only takes a year to decompose, this doesn't account for all of the chemicals and toxic microplastics left behind. They get into landfills and oceans and scientists think that by the year 2050 there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish. Plastic is not biodegradable. Plastic causes pollution and climate change. Plastic bags clog sewers and pollute animal habitats. The answer to the question of whether or not plastic bags should be banned seems pretty simple: they absolutely should be. We should and need to implement measures to ban plastic bags as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Morgan Sclafani

27 New Lebbon Rd
Sandy Hook, CT 06482

From: **Sweta Morijawala via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Mon, Jun 3, 2019 at 10:37 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Monday, June 3, 2019 - 10:37am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Sweta Morijawala

Your e-mail address: morijawala@hotmail.com

Subject: Ban plastic bags

Message: I support the ban and replace it with bring your own bags.

From: **Bob Andrejczyk via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Sat, Jun 1, 2019 at 3:18 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Saturday, June 1, 2019 - 3:18pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Bob Andrejczyk

Your e-mail address: windsoar58@att.net

Subject: plastic bag ordinance

Message: I am opposed to the plastic bag ordinance as proposed. There seems to be insufficient input from the business owners in Newtown who would be most affected and who may have the best insight on a workable approach. This also should not be rushed ahead of what is done at the state level, so that Newtown businesses can remain on a level playing field with competing businesses in neighboring towns. In general I believe there are better ways to encourage voluntarily reduction in single use bags than strong arm with an ordinance

From: **Jamison Fletcher via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Sat, Jun 1, 2019 at 1:04 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Saturday, June 1, 2019 - 1:04pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Jamison Fletcher

Your e-mail address: jamisonfletcher0714@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

Message: I support the plastic bag ban and the fee for paper bags.

From: **Tony Filiato via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Sat, Jun 1, 2019 at 11:17 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Saturday, June 1, 2019 - 11:17am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Tony Filiato

Your e-mail address: tonyfiliato@ymail.com

Subject: Plastic bag ordinance

Message:

- 1) I know very well the time and energy necessary to pass an ordinance. Quite frankly, the Council could spend their time better on LOCAL issues rather than an esoteric one such as this.
- 2) This is particularly true in light of the fact that studies show that the proposed ban is actually counterproductive in that paper bags have 4 times the carbon footprint and reusable bags over 170 times the footprint of disposable bag.
- 3) the irony of all of this is that 40 years ago disposable bags were good for the economy because paper bags killed trees.

Please spend your time on local, important concerns, such as how are we going to replace \$7m in school funding that the governor is taking away from us. Or if we truly cared for the environment we should be talking about why we are insisting on keeping an incredibly not "green" underutilized school building such as Hawley open.

From: **Wilfredo Soto Jr via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Sat, Jun 1, 2019 at 9:43 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Saturday, June 1, 2019 - 9:43am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Wilfredo Soto Jr

Your e-mail address: wsoto_jr@hotmail.com

Subject: Ban/restrictions on plastic/paper bags

Message:

I want to offer my partial support to the hotly debated topic that the board will taking up on June 5. As a resident, I cringe when I see plastic bags caught on tree branches, or laying soaked and covered with dirt on the side of the road, let alone the environmental issues. I'm all for banning plastic bags. However,

As a small business owner with a wine shop, I find charging for the use of paper as a regressive charge not just for the community at large, but for small business owners who would have to monitor the charge of such fees. In addition, when customer's purchase multiple items (which is good for business) why charge them for use of recycled paper bags? Are cardboard boxes next? Leave paper out of the discussion. Other will argue that the carbon footprint of paper is worse than plastic. Paper is used everyday in some form, and paper bags is most likely a tiny fraction of the carbon footprint when looked at its totality within the paper production industry. I'm sure Staples or W.B. Mason would attest to that.

From what I've read this morning, the proposed budget that has tentative

agreement includes a 10 cent fee on plastic. Although I'm open to see if this changes consumer behavior by discouraging the use of plastic bags, I see that paper was not included. When I go to the Big Y, I purchase way too many small items. As part of the overall experience, I should not have to worry about how many re-usable bags I need.

Now here's where I think the board will have an issue:

As an owner, I can attest that the use of plastic by my customers is less than 3%. Of the 3%, they represent the physically disabled, and the use of a plastic bag makes their shopping experience easier to carry out the items, place in their vehicles, and to retrieve them once they get home. I have customers that use walkers that requires the use of both hands. I have other customers who has Parkinson's, MS, or missing limbs, and using plastic over a cumbersome re-usable bag is a challenge. Although I do advocate eliminating plastic bags, how as a business owner am I to discriminate on their disability. It's against my morals to charge those with a disability because the town chooses to have us enforce a rule that will become impossible to monitor compliance. How would the council monitor and/or audit business owners should it decide the fee does not apply to those with disabilities? Are suppliers expected to upfront the charges per plastic bag I purchase? If so, am I to decide if one claims a disability are truthful? Should I deny them and charge the fee, am I opening myself up for possibility of discrimination? I know it's a small chance, but it takes just one claim for this to become a financial burden on a small business. So, if you are to decide whether to charge or ban, I say ban. Do not put the burden on the small business owner. You guys should be the ones to take that burden of your decision. If you decide to have us charge, then it will be incumbent upon the town to police every small business owner on compliance (again, an expense). Let those with physical issues challenge the town.

My solution will apply to:

Big box stores (Big Y, Stop n Shop, Tractor Supply)

Business that offer delivery, including food.

Exclude pharmacies or medical supply stores.

I propose limiting the amount of plastic bags used per transaction to 4, and not allow double bagging of plastic on plastic. The propose .10 cent fee still applies. Should they go over 4, then the fee would be an additional .15 cents per bag which would be a local ordinance. If the idea is to change consumer behavior, that additional fee would do it. For those disabled, (use of walker or similar apparatus, missing limbs) should be offered the option w/o the consequence of a fee. However, the big box stores have the financial ability to fight any discrimination issues should they arise.

From: **Barbara Richardson via Newtown CT**<cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Fri, May 31, 2019 at 4:39 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Friday, May 31, 2019 - 4:39pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Barbara Richardson

Your e-mail address: mbllrichardson@earthlink.net

Subject: Plastic bag ban

Message:

To members of the Legislative Council,

I am writing to urge you to support the proposed ban on single use plastic bags in local stores along with the fee for paper bags. Changing habits to minimize the amount of plastics thrown away is important. The environment is being harmed, and our town can help make needed changes to make a healthier future.

From: Robert Katrinak via Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Fri, May 31, 2019 at 10:43 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Friday, May 31, 2019 - 10:43am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Robert Katrinak

Your e-mail address: rkatrinak@sbcglobal.net

Subject: Public Comment - Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance, June 5th Hearing

Message:

To Legislative Council Members:

I am not in support of the Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance. It should be discarded in its entirety. This ordinance is yet another reason not to do business in Newtown or even live in Newtown. We are already at the point where it is difficult to sell a home in Newtown. This ordinance will be one more reason for potential buyers to choose not live in Newtown. This ordinance states it is for "plastic bag reduction" yet it goes on to charge 10 cents for a paper bag. This makes no sense. Don't residents deserve some way to carry their purchases home? Reusable bags are a poor option, particularly for grocery stores where they will become contaminated with bacteria over time. I recently visited the state of Maryland. They charge customers for bags there. The store checkout process was slowed down by waiting to determine how many bags I ended up using during my visit. I'm not following what the council's obsession is with bags. Has anyone on the council noticed all the packaging used in our stores to protect and market products to consumers? Will the council try to regulate this out of existence next? Please move on to more important business that is actually helpful for the residents of Newtown.

From: **Robert Katrinak via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Fri, May 31, 2019 at 10:43 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Friday, May 31, 2019 - 10:43am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Robert Katrinak

Your e-mail address: rkatrinak@sbcglobal.net

Subject: Public Comment - Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance, June 5th Hearing

Message:

To Legislative Council Members:

I am not in support of the Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance. It should be discarded in its entirety. This ordinance is yet another reason not to do business in Newtown or even live in Newtown. We are already at the point where it is difficult to sell a home in Newtown. This ordinance will be one more reason for potential buyers to choose not live in Newtown. This ordinance states it is for "plastic bag reduction" yet it goes on to charge 10 cents for a paper bag. This makes no sense. Don't residents deserve some way to carry their purchases home? Reusable bags are a poor option, particularly for grocery stores where they will become contaminated with bacteria over time. I recently visited the state of Maryland. They charge customers for bags there. The store checkout process was slowed down by waiting to determine how many bags I ended up using during my visit. I'm not following what the council's obsession is with bags. Has anyone on the council noticed all the packaging used in our stores to protect and market products to consumers? Will the council try to regulate this out of existence next? Please move on to more important business that is actually helpful for the residents of Newtown.

From: **Donna Tomasko via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Thu, May 30, 2019 at 10:02 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Thursday, May 30, 2019 - 10:02am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Donna Tomasko

Your e-mail address: dtomasko@earthlink.net

Subject: plastic bag ban

Message: I would just like to show support for the banning of plastic bags.

I feel it's important that we start taking more steps to protect the environment.

From: **Roger Maude via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 29, 2019 at 6:11 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 - 6:11pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Roger Maude

Your e-mail address: rmaude2@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic Bag Ordinance

Message: I can't attend the meeting Wednesday and wish to protest this proposed ordinance. You do not have the authority to decide for the rest of us what types of bags we use. You should be spending your time finding efficiencies in our town, not forcing your petty points of view on us tax payers. If you continue this radical behavior I will become a very vocal opponent to re-election of those supporting this nonsense.

From: **Emma Hungaski via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 29, 2019 at 6:11 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 - 6:11pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Emma Hungaski

Your e-mail address: ehungaski97@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

Message: Please pass the plastic bag ban with the ten cent charge for paper bags. Thanks!

From: **Emma Gotschlich via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 29, 2019 at 2:11 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 - 2:11pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Emma Gotschlich

Your e-mail address: emma.gotschlich@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic Bags

Message:

Dear the Newtown Legislative Council,

Hello, I am Emma Gotschlich, a junior at Newtown High School and I would like to speak about plastic bags here in Newtown. As we all know, plastic has become a huge issue here on earth and more specifically in our oceans. We see other states and other with plastic bags still in use, and while Newtown alone can not solve the plastic issues in our world, the little part that that we play can make a world of a difference in the long run. We need to make a change in our plastic bag habits for the purpose of helping reduce the plastic epidemic in our oceans, slimming our waste overall, and becoming a more environmentally conscious town. The current population of Newtown is 27,560, as calculated by Biological Diversity, the average American uses 5.91 pounds of plastic each day. Multiply that daily plastic usage by the amount of citizens in Newtown and we have a total of 162,879.6 pounds of plastic each day being used by citizens of Newtown. Multiply that by 365 for how many days there are in a year and all of the citizens of Newtown produce 59,451,054 pounds of plastic on only one year. If we think about the fact that plastic bags have been around for about 50 years. This would mean that for the past 50 years citizens of newtown have been producing 2,972,553,000 pounds of the worlds plastic waste. This amount of waste can be significantly slimmed down if we make a change in the amount of plastic we provide here in Newtown. Banning plastic bags would make a huge dent in the amount of waste we produce. Just by slimming our numbers down we evidently make a change in our environment on our earth as a whole. As a student in a public health class here at NHS, I have been exposed to real world examples and situations in which it had been demonstrated that we, as humans are destroying our earth. As just one citizen here in Newtown, I do not ask much, I would just love to see more environmentally conscious decisions being made in Newtown specifically by banning plastic bags.

Thank You
Emma Gotschlich
8 Teachers Ridge Rd Newtown CT 06482

From: **Evan Song via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 29, 2019 at 2:08 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 - 2:08pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Evan Song

Your e-mail address: es5970@newtownps.org

Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

Message:

Dear Newtown Legislature,

My name is Evan Song and I am a student at Newtown High School. I am contacting you to tell you that we should ban plastic bags because they contribute to pollution, decline in population health, and have an abundance of substitutes.

Plastic bags contribute to pollution. Due to their light structure, they are easily blown from area to area by the wind. This means that they can be blown from a landfill to either a city or the ocean. The plastic bags themselves take many years to decompose, which means they can remain where they are for a long time, becoming part of an ever growing amount of pollution. If the bags land in the ocean, they are at risk of harming sea life that end up consuming it or choking on it. In addition, plastic bags release chemicals into the environment, which then harm plant life and potentially make the environment toxic. The chemicals would then be integrated into plants that animals eat, resulting in them dying.

Secondly, plastic bags, through the chemicals they release, contribute to decline in human health. This is because some of the animals that end up consuming plastic are used to make food, like fish and cows. The chemicals that were ingested end up being processed into food. As a result, humans ingest the toxic chemicals that were released from the plastic bags. Among these chemicals is chlorine-based, which have the effect of damaging tissue in the human eyes, throat, and lungs. Long term health effects from chlorine exposure include pulmonary edema, which is excess fluid in the lungs. Other health effects include coughing and difficulty breathing.

Finally, there are an abundance of substitutes for plastic bags. For instance, there is a wrapping paper based off beeswax. In addition, there are cotton bags that can be reused many times over and reusable paper bags. There are also bags that made of reusable mesh that can be utilized in carrying produce and many other substitutes.

The three reasons for banning plastic bags consist of contributing to pollution, causing decline in health, and having many alternatives for them. Please take these into consideration.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Evan Song

12 River Edge Drive, Sandy Hook, Connecticut

From: **Angela Fiorella via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 29, 2019 at 2:06 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 - 2:06pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Angela Fiorella

Your e-mail address: angiefiorella02@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

Message:

There is a rising problem with the amount of pollution in and growing in the environment. We are actively killing our home, and the immortal plastic is one of the biggest culprits.

Hello! My name is Angie Fiorella, and I am a student at Newtown High School. Recently, my public health class has been making effort to better our school, and home climate. We ran a health fair stand, trying to spread awareness of the dangers of plastics and the harm it does. We also started a petition to ban plastic straws at our school, which got over 500 signatures. Many students, and peers of mine see this growing danger and feel the need to stop, and help as much as possible. It is our responsibility to save the planet, and all life from the damage that we (as a species) are directly responsible for.

Only 9% of American used plastics are recycled annually. Clearly, we have a problem with recycling because so little is saved, so that should not be relied on as a safety net. There are many things we can do to REDUCE the amount of plastics being produced, and used, but it is hard for people to bite the bullet and recycle. So instead of relying on people to recycle, and save the planet on an individual basis we must take mass action. If straws, plastic bags, baggie and other such items are at peoples disposal they will use them. The only way to prevent, and stop the use of these detrimental plastics is to end the availability of them. If plastic bags are at people's fingertips they WILL continue using them, they will continue leaving their fabric bags in their cars. If we remove their ability to receive plastic bags, they will not forget their cloth bags. It would become their new routine shortly after the removal of dangerous plastics.

Now, paper is an alternative to plastic bags, but it is not a solution to the problems that we face. The largest current, available solution is to ask stores to use cloth bags, or cardboard boxes. The cardboard boxes would not cost them money, because they would be the boxes the items came in. Most stores should run similarly to Costco. When I say be like Costco I don't mean add memberships, I mean by reusing their wasted boxes. 100 Million animals die each year from plastic consumption and pollution. This does not include the animals that have died from climate change, or deforestation. This number is extremely large, and it has a solution. We have the option to save animals, and our home planet and each day we decide to look the other way.

Each day we make the active choice to put our own convenience before the needs of millions of animals, and our home planet. We can move one step closer to a happy home by banning the use of single plastic bags. Thank you.

From: **Richard Hungaski via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 29, 2019 at 12:46 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 - 12:46pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Richard Hungaski

Your e-mail address: tcastwell@icloud.com

Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

Message: I support the plastic bag ban with the paper bag fee and hope you will vote it into law on June5.

From: **Alisa Redzepi via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 29, 2019 at 8:50 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 - 8:50am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Alisa Redzepi

Your e-mail address: lissredzz@yahoo.com

Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

Message:

Alisa Redzepi

15 Valley Field Rd South Sandy Hook CT

24 May 2019

Dear Newtown,

In order for our town to be able to progress and do our part in saving the environment we must be more cautious and active with what we could essentially fix. Various less developed countries such as India and China have even put action within this ban for the greater good of the environment. Because this is seen to work in various other countries, it serves possible to be executed in the United States and it essentially must be. The key target of plastic bags comes from the statistic that 8 million metric tons are filling our oceans as well as land, encompassing the detrimental effect of it on the environment. Some substantial reasons supporting why there should be a plastic bag ban is that it is the lead source of pollution, polluting our land and waters due to it not being recyclable. They are easily picked up by the wind as they are extremely light and travel long distances to pollute nature. Another reason is that plastic bags are made from non renewable resources and contributes to climate change. This means that it produces greenhouse gases that are toxic and cause global warming. Lastly, an important point to know is that plastic bags never disappear or "break down". This ultimately breaks down in our soil which contaminates food and water sources and serves as indestructible in both land and water, threatening wildlife and humans. In all, we as a town should ban these life threatening issues and do our part in society, seeing as we are able to cause a positive change through this ban.

Kind regards,

Alisa Redzepi

From: **Vicky Maresca via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Tue, May 28, 2019 at 1:50 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 - 1:50pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Vicky Maresca

Your e-mail address: VARM80@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Subject: Paper or plastic

Message: I would like to vote in for neither plastic nor paper. Bags were originally paper. Then they were plastic because of the deforestation of trees. Everyone should do what Costco does. Bring your own bags, grab an empty used box or just carry out. We recycle so new products can be made. Everyone should use and bring their own recycled bags. Saves trees, no waste, and good for the environment. Thank you!

From: **Vicky Maresca via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Tue, May 28, 2019 at 1:50 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 - 1:50pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Vicky Maresca

Your e-mail address: VARM80@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Subject: Paper or plastic

Message: I would like to vote in for neither plastic nor paper. Bags were originally paper. Then they were plastic because of the deforestation of trees. Everyone should do what Costco does. Bring your own bags, grab an empty used box or just carry out. We recycle so new products can be made. Everyone should use and bring their own recycled bags. Saves trees, no waste, and good for the environment. Thank you!

From: **Sean Fitzpatrick via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 4:34 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - 4:34pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Sean Fitzpatrick

Your e-mail address: sean@33vfitness.com

Subject: Plastic

Message: I am in favor of the Newtown Environmental Team and the proposal to ban plastic bag use in our community.

From: **Carrie Battaglia via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 2:21 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - 2:21pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Carrie Battaglia

Your e-mail address: carrie.battaglia@gmail.com

Subject: plastic bag ban

Message:

I am a Sandy Hook resident, and I am in favor of a plastic bag ban.

Thank you

From: **Paul Samberg via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Fri, May 24, 2019 at 11:41 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Friday, May 24, 2019 - 11:41am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Paul Samberg

Your e-mail address: phsam50@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

Message:

To whom it may concern,

My name is Paul Samberg, and I am a student at Newtown High School. My Public Health class just wrapped up our project that outlined ways to decrease the amount of plastic pollution in the oceans. Given that the legislative assembly has a vote on banning plastic bags on the docket, I felt I should offer my input on the topic, given the research I have put into this subject for our Public Health class.

I am very much in favor of the removal of plastic bags. For starters, I feel that you do not even need to look at the statistics to form an argument; simply browse the hundreds of pictures and articles about marine life and their homes being littered with plastic. And if the deaths of numerous animals isn't enough to persuade you to vote to ban plastic bags, you can start to look at the statistics.

For instance, Waste Management has stated that only 1% of plastic bags are returned for recycling, while the rest are sent to landfills. And, in these landfills, plastic bags take at least 500 years to decompose.

Aside from the gruesome accounts of marine life, as well as the many negative statistics of plastic bags, those running for office should want to support plastic bag removal. In a February Gallup poll, the Environment ranked as the eighth most important issue for American voters. Also, 82% of registered Democrats said that climate change was a very important issue, if not the top issue to focus on.

Diving deeper into that, Senators Brian Schatz, Sheldon Whitehouse, and Martin Heinrich wrote a letter to NBC News Chairman Andy Lack saying that questions about climate change and the environment need to be included in the Presidential Primary debates, because it is one of the leading issues in this election cycle.

Clearly, protecting the environment is an important task for America and the rest of the world, and banning plastic bags is one of the many steps needed

to do so. But, for those who think that paper bags are no better, I ask why provide any bags? If plastic bans are successfully removed, people should not need paper bags as an alternative; tote bags and second hand cardboard boxers are good enough. If you look at food store, Aldi, that is exactly what they do--no bags are provided--and they have a steady customer base. Whether you take Aldi as an example of how to avoid using plastic bags, look at the negative statistics surrounding plastics and America's favorability to fixing the environment, or see the toll plastic bags take on marine life, I hope that you will all do the right thing and vote to remove plastic bags in the town of Newtown.

Thank you.

Paul Samberg
20 Russett Road
Sandy Hook, Connecticut 06482

From: **Preston Bliss-Martinez via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Fri, May 24, 2019 at 9:18 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Friday, May 24, 2019 - 9:18am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Preston Bliss-Martinez

Your e-mail address: PB2666@newtownps.org

Subject: Plastic bag ban

Message:

Preston Bliss-Martinez

4 Valley View rd

Newtown, CT

My side for the plastic bag ban is to ban them move over to paper bags and set fees on them but sooner rather than later. The best option would be to use reusable bags because these bags don't harm the environment where both plastic and paper are bad for the environment we live in. Both release chemicals in the air that we breathe in either when being made or incinerated. Plastic bags have a high carbon footprint as many know but paper bags have a higher one taking in consider their manufacturing and transportation which should make both be banned. One last reason is because the bags can't be reused and just get thrown away or anywhere and paper bags can only be reused about twice before it starts to break down which isn't helpful.

From: **Asani Vessup via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Fri, May 24, 2019 at 9:16 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Friday, May 24, 2019 - 9:16am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Asani Vessup

Your e-mail address: AV7971@newtownps.org

Subject: Plastic Bag ban

Message:

Asani Vessup

Address: 5 Sugarloaf Rd, Sandy Hook CT, 06482

This email's purpose is to express my thoughts and opinions on the plastic bag ban. For the past decade or more, the media has been feeding us with information on the dangers in the use of plastic bags. This includes pollution, harm to animals and damaging our planet earth. As the years go by, we are making the environment less and less survivable for the future generations for each of our families. These core three reasons are why I personally believe that we should ban plastic bags and paper bags (unless there was an additional fee put on them) in supermarkets and stores across Newtown Connecticut:

The fact that plastic bags partially biodegrade into our environment, the animals that we eat, and the water we utilize, is a huge issue that hasn't been addressed too often in depth. Toxins can get into our bodies, directly being linked to cancers, birth defects, immune system problems and childhood developmental issues.

Plastic bags are made from petroleum, a non-renewable energy source, with an estimation of about 12 million barrels of oil are used to make the plastic bags we use in the U.S. per year. Oil is one of the most valuable goods around the world, and putting around 12 million barrels of oil into making plastic bags is a waste of our resources when we can put that oil into something else more valuable.

When plastic bags are incinerated, the toxins become airborne, so we are not only being exposed to deadly toxins in our food, but we are breathing it in constantly without even knowing it. If plastic bags were no longer in use, less people would develop these diseases and end up in hospitals, using up even more crucial resources that we need in order to survive.

From: **Isabella Morganti via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Fri, May 24, 2019 at 9:10 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Friday, May 24, 2019 - 9:10am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Isabella Morganti

Your e-mail address: isabellamorganti01@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

Message:

Isabella Morganti: 12 Green Knolls Lane Newtown Ct 06470- I think there should be a ban on plastic bags in Newtown because they are very harmful to the environment and will stay in the ocean being a danger to ocean animals. The bags biodegrade into small pieces which fish can confuse for food which can be very harmful to their digestive system. I think people should be using reusable bags instead of plastic or paper bags because they are not harmful to the environment and they can be used over and over again.

From: **Zoe Waller via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Fri, May 24, 2019 at 9:02 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Friday, May 24, 2019 - 9:02am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Zoe Waller

Your e-mail address: zoewaller@gmail.com

Subject: plastic ban

Message:

Zoe Waller

Shepard hill rd, Newtown, CT

Dear Newtown Legislative Council,

Last year, I freedove in the reefs off Grand Caymans 7 mile beach. I had dove their two years before, and seen a small nurse shark, squid, an octopus, and a turtle. Two years later, there were still fish - but much, much less. There were no big animals, and the place looked like it was dying. The slow death of our world's oceans (due to pollution) is a nationwide crisis, yet ½ billion plastic bags are used per year in Connecticut alone. By reducing the amount of pollution contributed to the environment by Newtown alone, we truly can help preserve the life of the ocean and thus the health of our earth.

According to the United Nations, the ingestion of plastic kills 1 million marine birds and 100,000 marine animals per year. 700 species of marine life are currently facing extinction due to the increase in plastic pollution. Billions of pounds of plastic are currently moving in giant heaps on the ocean surface, making up 40% of the worlds ocean surfaces. The Great Pacific garbage patch is the largest ocean garbage site in the world. This floating heap of trash is twice the size of Texas. Another garbage heap floats along the Atlantic Ocean off of the North American Coast, which is the one that Connecticut and other east-coast states contribute to.

The issue of plastic pollution in the ocean may seem miniscule in comparison to global warming, climate change, and air pollution. However, the difference between this issue and the others is that a polluted ocean can be stopped. Humanity must entirely restructure their energy (power/electricity) production system in order to stop air pollution and global warming, which we (as a small town) clearly have no say in. However, ocean plastic has a much simpler solution. People know how to reuse, reduce, and recycle. If we do nothing, the world's oceans will visibly contain more plastic than fish by the year 2050. Further, plastic bags biodegrade. They break down into tiny pieces called microplastics which are then ingested by shrimp, eaten by fish, and ultimately consumed by humans. Many of the plastics we currently consume from the ocean are toxic and if ingested in higher concentrations, would pose a serious threat to our lives. Pollution in the ocean is not the greatest environmental threat to humanity, but it is a significant one, and it's one we can put a stop to. However, paper bags are not the answer. It takes 4 times more fuel to manufacture them than it does plastic bags, 8 times more gasoline to transport them (their heavier than plastic bags), and the manufacturing of them emits 70% more emissions than that of plastic. Their contribution to air pollution and climate change renders their reduction of ocean pollution pointless.

More than 40% of plastic is used once, then thrown away. This will be the case for paper bags, as well. While less overused, paper bags are evidently just as bad. As im aware that complete removal of all bags isn't realistic, I

urge you to put a very costly fee on paper bags. By demanding the use of reusable bags, we will help preserve the earth for future generations. I know the generations after mine will never experience the oceans inspiring vitality as I did, but with proper action they may be able to experience it in the remaining un-polluted places of the world (ie: Saba). If we can at least help contain pollution, we will greatly enhance the lives of the generations after us.

Lastly, the ocean is a vital provider of oxygen, providing 50-80% of the air we breath. If plastic pollution eventually does kill the ocean (which at this rate it will!), we will not have enough oxygen to survive. The survival of the earth relies on the survival of our oceans - which depends on humanity's ability to stop contributing to plastic pollution. I hope that you consider the full removal of both paper and plastic bags, as a subsequent increase in the amount of paper bags being used in Newtown may actually harm our environment further.

FROOM ZOWE!

From: **Christine via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Thu, May 23, 2019 at 10:31 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Thursday, May 23, 2019 - 10:31pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Christine

Your e-mail address: cmruzek@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic bags-

Message:

I think paper should only be allowed for meats and other bacteria prone items. Ban plastic bags, styrofoam or straws!

From: **Andrea Brosnan via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Thu, May 23, 2019 at 9:56 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Thursday, May 23, 2019 - 9:56pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Andrea Brosnan

Your e-mail address: kerange@aol.com

Subject: Plastic bags

Message: Banning single use plastic bags and/or charging people who use them is a fabulous idea. I absolutely want this to be put into effect in Newtown.

I am all for it.

From: **Eric via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Thu, May 23, 2019 at 2:11 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Thursday, May 23, 2019 - 2:11pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Eric

Your e-mail address: casagrandeeric1@gmail.com

Subject: Reduce the usage of Plastic Bags

Message:

For all those concerned,

Millions of plastic bags are used every year here in the town of Newtown Connecticut annually. When people dispose of the bags they litter them into our environment which can cause some serious problems. One problem of that extent is that these bags end up biodegrading into tiny pieces called micro plastics. The micro plastics most of the time end up in the ocean and are eaten by mainly fish and other organisms. This harms over 250 types of organisms living in the ocean and can cause the animals to starve because of the fact that their stomachs are filled with plastics and not the food they need.

Another reason we should stop using plastic bags is the fact that recycling these bags actually damages the recycling machines. Plastic bags are made out of petroleum oil and when they are incinerated, the toxins rise into the air that we breathe. This can potentially harm our organs and body. This requires about 12 million barrels of oil to use

Third, by littering these bags, they are building up in huge heaps in the middle of our oceans. Some of these garbage heaps are bigger than the entire state of Texas and some other states. That is a huge problem for organisms living in the ocean and it contaminates part of our waters. I think we should turn to reusable bags in the near future. The pollution, littering, and harm of organisms will drop if we go this route. Instead of throwing it away you can re use it multiple times until you want a new one.

Sincerely,

Eric Casagrande

2 Fairchild Drive, Newtown CT

From: **Dawn Handschuh via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Thu, May 23, 2019 at 2:07 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Thursday, May 23, 2019 - 2:07pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Dawn Handschuh

Your e-mail address: dawn303030@yahoo.com

Subject: Plastic bag ban

Message:

The time has come for a plastic bag ban. These bags clog our oceans, kill marine life and persist for hundreds of years in the environment. I would love to see Newtown join the growing number of municipalities across Connecticut in banning such bags, most of which are used once and never again. It's simply not sustainable, and the Earth is in a crisis situation now.

The .10 fee for paper bags is an integral part of the paper bag ban since without it, some consumers will simply take the route of least resistance and start getting paper bags at check-out. This will only accelerate another crisis with forest destruction. These practices are just not workable for the

long term, so if we can get people to start a new habit....bringing their own reusable bag....we'll all be much better off.

Thanks.

From: **Susan Kassirer via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Thu, May 23, 2019 at 12:57 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Thursday, May 23, 2019 - 12:57pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Susan Kassirer

Your e-mail address: suejkassirer@gmail.com

Subject: Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban and Charge for Paper--for it!

Message:

Dear Sirs and Madams: I am writing in strong support of the above legislation. It is one measure that we as individuals and we as a town can do to help reverse the devastating state of our planet at this time. To me it is a no-brainer. In years to come (assuming the Earth survives) I can see our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren looking back in disbelief that this was even something up for debate. I thank each and every one of you for please doing the right thing and voting for the ban and charge for paper.

Sincerely,

Susan Kassirer

6 Still Hill Road

Sandy Hook

From: **Devon Porter via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Thu, May 23, 2019 at 12:38 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Thursday, May 23, 2019 - 12:38pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Devon Porter

Your e-mail address: rdp1021@hotmail.com

Subject: I support the plastic bag ban!

Message: Do the right thing - pass the ban on plastic and paper bags!!!

From: **Owen Baillargeon via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Thu, May 23, 2019 at 11:50 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Thursday, May 23, 2019 - 11:50am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Owen Baillargeon

Your e-mail address: owenb1312@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

Message:

To whom it may concern,

Using plastic bags in our grocery stores on a daily basis is causing many problems in various ways. Many people living in Newtown have very little clue on just how drastic using plastic bags on can affect their daily lives. For instance, we use millions of plastic bags per year in just Newtown alone. On top of this, we on average use these plastic bags for roughly 12 minutes. That means that we use millions of plastic bags for a lifespan of roughly 12 minutes. Using the plastic bags for just those 12 minutes can result in various problems not just for ourselves, but for the world we're living in.

Human health is I'd say very important. These days human's will do whatever they can to ensure that they live the longest they possibly can, or will do whatever they can to ensure that they don't get diseases like diabetes, cancer, etc. By using plastic bags we're hurting our bodies in ways that the damage done may not be able to be fixed. When plastic bags are incinerated, as is our Newtown trash, the toxins from the chemicals they are manufactured with go into the air for us to breathe. When plastic is burned, it releases dangerous chemicals such as hydrochloric acid, sulfur dioxide, dioxins, furans and heavy metals, as well as particulates. These emissions are known to cause respiratory ailments and stress human immune systems, and they're potentially carcinogenic. Inhaling air with these toxins in it is potentially very dangerous for an individual living in Newtown.

Besides negatively impacting our own health, we also impact the health of the environment, and the animals living within those environments. There are several floating plastic garbage heaps in our oceans, and they are growing every day. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch or Gyre, which floats between Hawaii and California, is twice the size of Texas. The North Atlantic Gyre, located in the Atlantic Ocean off the North American coast, is the one to which Connecticut and other east-coast states contribute. Plastic bags go into landfills and oceans – scientists think that by the year 2050 there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish!

By taking action by enforcing the rule of no usage of plastic or paper bags in Newtown, we would be taking a huge step towards a more Eco-friendly town. We would be helping our health and the health of the environments around us which are just as important. In my opinion, it is completely necessary for Newtown to change from plastic and paper bags to reusable bags that won't cause pollution or risk our health.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

Owen Baillargeon
36 Dock Drive, Sandy Hook CT 06482

From: **Lila Abbagnaro via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Thu, May 23, 2019 at 11:50 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Thursday, May 23, 2019 - 11:50am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Lila Abbagnaro

Your e-mail address: abbagnarol@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

Message:

Lila Abbagnaro 22 Turkey Hill Road, Newtown, CT

I believe that plastic bags should be banned entirely, because of the higher risk they pose than paper bags. Millions of plastic bags are used JUST in Newtown, and 100 billion are used a year in the entire United States. When the plastic bags biodegrade, they break down into tiny pieces called microplastic, that are eventually eaten by plankton, that are eaten by fish, which is then eaten by us. Plastic bags also harm 250 different marine life, like whales, birds, turtles, and fish. They eat the plastic, and they end up starving and dying. Many animals, such as sea turtles, mistake floating plastic bags as jellyfish, and overtime ingest too much plastic. Plastic bags are also extremely difficult to recycle. The saying "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle" with the common three-arrow recycle symbol is also a type of marketing scheme. This means there's no regulations or legal requirements for the way it is practiced. The bags collected by the recycling companies cannot be reused or recycled, and the company that makes them does not want them back. They end up in landfills or are shipped the Asia where they are sent to sweatshops, and later melted down and reused there. As for paper bags, they are both recyclable and biodegradable. They are more sturdy, and can be reused. Not only for groceries, but used afterwards for other items. You can also tear the paper bags into tiny pieces and put it into your compost pile. Paper bags also require less energy to recycle than plastic bags. Overall, I believe plastic bags should be banned altogether so people will start using paper bags, and make a serious impact that plastic bags are suffocating our planet.

From: **Theresa N. Ritchie and James J. Ritchie via Newtown**

CT<cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Thu, May 23, 2019 at 11:46 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Thursday, May 23, 2019 - 11:46am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Theresa N. Ritchie and James J. Ritchie

Your e-mail address: tritchie48@gmail.com

Subject: Ban on single-use plastic bags

Message:

We write to express support for a ban on the use of single-use plastic bags by retailers in Newtown. Single-use plastic bags are currently everywhere one looks. They litter our roads, are blown into our trees, can be found polluting our oceans, streams and our shoreline, Long Island Sound. They are among the plastic items that are responsible for the death of countless animals living in the sea.

All for what? The convenience of consumers? The convenience of the retailer? Profit margins?

There is, in our opinion, no real reason to continue using a product that exists for no reason other than our convenience while simultaneously contributing to the degradation of our planet.

Sincerely,
Theresa N. Ritchie and James J. Ritchie
81 High Rock Rd.
Sandy Hook

From: Megan Riccardi via Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Thu, May 23, 2019 at 11:36 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Thursday, May 23, 2019 - 11:36am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Megan Riccardi

Your e-mail address: meganriccardi33@gmail.com

Subject: Ban of Plastic Bags

Message:

To the Legislative Council,

Due to the millions amount of plastic bags used in Newtown, CT I believe we should ban the use of plastic bags. Our lifespans are much more worthy than any price of bag used. Scientists have said that by 2050 there will be more plastic in our oceans than fish! Do you really want our future children/grandchildren to be living a life surrounded by trash? Not only does human life is effected but also marine/other animals. Over 250 animals including whales, birds, seals, sea turtles and various kinds of fish starve because their stomachs fill with plastic. That's our food chain people! In addition, toxins from chemicals when plastic bags are incinerated, release into the atmosphere and the air we breathe. Everyday we are breathing in chemicals when this problem can be easily solved just by making a simply switch to reusable bags.

Sincerely, Megan Riccardi
1 Longview Heights Rd. Newtown, CT 06470

From: Katherine Dirga via Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Thu, May 23, 2019 at 11:35 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Thursday, May 23, 2019 - 11:35am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Katherine Dirga

Your e-mail address: kd0688@newtownps.org

Subject: Ban on Plastic Bags

Message:

127 Currituck Rd. Newtown CT, 06470

Dear Legislative Council,

Plastic bags are a danger to the environment we live in. Our oceans are suffering, by 2050 their will be more plastic in the ocean than animals. Plastic kills, it takes the lives of 250 different kinds of animals including sea turtles, whales, seals, birds, and different kinds of fish. Plastic takes of 1000 years to decompose and there millions of bags are used in newtown every year. That is a ton of plastic. Lucky for us this is an easy fix. We can ban plastic bags from all stores in newtown. Instead of the plastic

stores can charge ten cents for paper bags or customers can bring reusable bags from home. Think of how many animals we can save with this change. Every single one of us are responsible for killing sea life, simply by using plastic. Paying 10 cents for a paper bag is worth the lives of animals. And if you do not want to pay for the paper bags you can simply bring your own from home.

Sincerely,
Katie Dirga

From: **Michael Leary via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Thu, May 23, 2019 at 11:33 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Thursday, May 23, 2019 - 11:33am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Michael Leary

Your e-mail address: mikeblct@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

Message:

100 Berkshire rd, Sandy Hook, CT, 06482

Plastic bags have grown to be infamous for polluting the earth. They are known for being very detrimental to ocean life making it hard for some species to live in the ocean. It has even made turtles population diminished drastically. And something needs to be done about these terrible plastic bags. And I believe this plastic bag tax is good because it makes some of this pollution decrease. With this ban and tax Newtown will make the pollution in landfills and trash facilities decrease because these bags will decrease in population making less chemicals be released into soil. This ban may also help reduce the usage of petroleum because companies will notice these bans making less production of plastic bags occur. These bags are also detrimental because they can cause birth defects, vision impairment, and respiratory problems when they begin to breakdown and these chemicals release get into waterways. While Newtown may not be a huge town and the impact may seem small of this ban it is a start to a larger solution to a huge problem.

From: **Maria Rodriguez de Arraiz via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Thu, May 23, 2019 at 11:27 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Thursday, May 23, 2019 - 11:27am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Maria Rodriguez de Arraiz

Your e-mail address: marialex.arraiz@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic bag ban

Message:

Good morning,

I am writing to let you know that as a resident of Newtown I am in favor of banning single use plastic bags. Likewise I do not support the use of paper bags as an alternative since it has been demonstrated that manufacturing

paper bags has also a great negative impact on the environment.

Thanks

From: **Bobbie Sue Smart via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Thu, May 23, 2019 at 10:02 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Thursday, May 23, 2019 - 10:02am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Bobbie Sue Smart

Your e-mail address: bobbiesue@smartdesignct.com

Subject: Plastic bags

Message:

Hi,

I'm in favor of a plastic bag ban/fee. Let's put Newtown in the forefront of this issue & protect our town's environment!

From: **Holly Kocet via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Thu, May 23, 2019 at 8:33 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Thursday, May 23, 2019 - 8:33am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Holly Kocet

Your e-mail address: Hollyk325@yahoo.com

Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

Message:

Dear Council Members,

Please approve the Plastic Bag Ban to include fee on paper bags. Without the fee on paper bags, people will just switch to paper which is not environmentally sound. Contrary with those who believe the plastic is all recycled or burned, much of it ends up in streams, waving in trees, along roadsides. This not only diminishes Newtown aesthetically but threatens birds, raptors, fish, turtles and other aquatic life, eventually ending up in Long Island Sound threatening wildlife there and the fishing industry. Plastic bags cannot go into single-source recycling because it clogs machinery putting workers at risk when they have to shut down equipment to remove the twisted bags. Also, as we know, burning plastic put toxic substances in the air we breath. I hope the Council will do the right thing for Newtown, our residents, our children, our world and vote to approve the Plastic Bag Ban. Respectfully, Holly M. Kocet

From: **Lynne Covill via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 8:47 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - 8:47pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Lynne Covill

Your e-mail address: ldelcov@yahoo.com

Subject: Please ban plastic bags

Message: Please vote to ban plastic bags and to charge a fee for paper bags.

From: **Julia provey via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 8:18 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - 8:18pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Julia provey

Your e-mail address: provey@att.net

Subject: Plastic bag ban

Message: Please pass the plastic bag ban .Let us be a town who is progressive in protecting our world. Thank you.

From: **Beverly Zeroogian via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 8:17 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - 8:17pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Beverly Zeroogian

Your e-mail address: beverly1z@yahoo.com

Subject: Plastic bags ban

Message: I support the ban on plastic bags and fee for paper. Plastic is destroying our environment and Newtown can lead the way in conserving our environment.

From: **Brenna Ortner via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 8:02 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - 8:02pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Brenna Ortner

Your e-mail address: brenna.ortner@gmail.com

Subject: Ban plastic bags!

Message: Ban plastic bags!

From: **Brenna Ortner via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 8:02 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - 8:02pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Brenna Ortner

Your e-mail address: brenna.ortner@gmail.com

Subject: Ban plastic bags!

Message: Ban plastic bags!

Your name: Kelly Chiarandini

Your e-mail address: kanddbqs@yahoo.com

Subject: in favor of plastic bag ban

Message:

I am in favor of banning plastic bags, but not in favor of a paper bag fee.

From: **Jenifer Vaughan via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 5:27 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - 5:27pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Jenifer Vaughan

Your e-mail address: jencvaughan@yahoo.com

Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

Message:

Hello,

I'm in favor of of the plastic bag ban.

Thank you ,

Jenifer Vaughan

From: **Cynthia Stierle via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 5:06 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - 5:06pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Cynthia Stierle

Your e-mail address: cmstierle@snet.net

Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

Message: I'm in favor of either a ban or a local tax (if at all feasible) on plastic bags to reduce these items from our waste stream.

From: **Constance Sullivan via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 3:59 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - 3:59pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Constance Sullivan

Your e-mail address: cbsullivan53@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic Bag Ban/Paper Bag Fee

Message: I support the plastic bag ban and charging for paper bags. This should be a no-brained. We are already behind other town leaders in doing so.

From: **Susan Spiro via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 3:33 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - 3:33pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Susan Spiro

Your e-mail address: spirosuzie@gmail.com

Subject: plastic bag ban/paper bag fee in Newtown

Message: I am in favor of this.

From: **Sarah Findley via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 2:58 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - 2:58pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Sarah Findley

Your e-mail address: sarahfindley216@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic bag ban

Message: I fully support a ban of plastic bags in Newtown.

From: **Jessica Ortner via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 2:55 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - 2:55pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Jessica Ortner

Your e-mail address: jessortner@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic bag ban

Message: I'd like you to know I fully support the ban. I've only heard support from friends and family in town too. We can take the lead to protect our environment!

From: **Edward Randall via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 2:54 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - 2:54pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Edward Randall

Your e-mail address: betsylitt@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic bag ban

Message: I support the ban on plastic bags and fee for paper bags; please vote to implement this in Newtown. Thank you.

From: **Karen Demont via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 2:25 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>Submitted on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - 2:25pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Karen Demont

Your e-mail address: karendemont@yahoo.com

Subject: Plastic bag ban

Message: I am in favor of banning plastic bags in our town. You have my support!

From: **Cara Reilly via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 2:20 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>Submitted on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - 2:20pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Cara Reilly

Your e-mail address: creilly@iwpnews.com

Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

Message:

I support a plastic bag ban/paper bag fee in Newtown.

From: **pattie thompson via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 2:00 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - 2:00pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: pattie thompson

Your e-mail address: pattiesilverthompson@yahoo.com

Subject: plastic bags

Message: We must stop using them!

From: **Jan Bernard via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 1:57 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>Submitted on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - 1:57pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Jan Bernard

Your e-mail address: jber2004@hotmail.com

Subject: Plastic and paper grocery bags

Message:

A ban with a minimal charge for paper makes sense.

Thank you for all you do.

From: **Barbara Donahue via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 1:52 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - 1:52pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Barbara Donahue

Your e-mail address: donahue.barb@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic Bag Ban and 10 cent minimum charge for Paper

Message: I am in favor of the ordinance that would ban plastic bags and require a 10 cent minimum charge for paper bags.

From: **Gail Diminico via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 1:49 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - 1:49pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Gail Diminico

Your e-mail address: gaildiminico@mac.com

Subject: Plastic bags ban

Message: Please pass the ban on plastic bags with fee for paper bags in Newtown. Think globally, act locally.

From: **Betsy Litt via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 1:40 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - 1:40pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Betsy Litt

Your e-mail address: betsylitt@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic bag ban

Message: Please put in place a plastic bag ban, & a fee for paper bags, in Newtown. Newtown can follow other Connecticut communities in setting an example of an environmentally responsible rule, encouraging reusable bags use for a safer & healthier world. Thank you.

From: **Carole and Laurence Hart via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 8:02 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - 8:02am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Carole and Laurence Hart

Your e-mail address: hartantiques@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic bag ban

Message: We are writing to say We fully support the plastic bag ban and in particular support the 10c fee on paper bags to be collected and kept by the businesses of Newtown to deter the use of paper. It is important that we do everything we can to make a difference to the environment, that we are responsible about our children's future.. One bag at a time.

From: **Terry Hennessey via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Tue, May 21, 2019 at 9:10 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 - 9:10pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Terry Hennessey

Your e-mail address: hmamakin@aol.com

Subject: Plastic bag ban

Message:

Hello. Please note I support the ban. Where do I sign a document doing so?

Thank you.

From: **Linda via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Tue, May 21, 2019 at 11:03 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>Submitted on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 - 11:03am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Linda

Your e-mail address: ldunn6785@sbcglobal.net

Subject: Ban on plastic bags

Message:

I will not be able to attend the June 5th meeting; however, I wanted to express my support for the ban on plastics. A small effort we can all do to protect our environment.

Member of the Newtown Garden Club

From: **Leda O'Callaghan via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Mon, May 20, 2019 at 4:33 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Monday, May 20, 2019 - 4:33pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Leda O'Callaghan

Your e-mail address: littlestlibralady@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

Message: Glad to hear that Newtown will be enacting a ban on plastic bags. I am in support. Thank you!

From: **Sue Duval via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Mon, May 20, 2019 at 2:30 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Monday, May 20, 2019 - 2:30pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Sue Duval

Your e-mail address: sueduval19@gmail.com

Subject: Plastic bag ban... yes please!!

Message: It's time for Newtown to ban single use plastic bags! Just like shopping at Costco or Aldi, customers at other retailers will figure it out and can always make use of readily available reusable bags or boxes.

From: **Lynn Hungaski via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Mon, May 20, 2019 at 11:40 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Monday, May 20, 2019 - 11:40am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Lynn Hungaski

Your e-mail address: lynnhungaski@cs.com

Subject: Article in this week's Newtown Bee "State of the Air"

Message:

I hope you have all seen an important article called "State of the Air" that ran on the front page of a special section (called "For Better Health") in our very own Newtown Bee this week. (I tried to copy it here but couldn't do it.) It is a huge warning from the American Lung Association about asthma rates in Connecticut which are rising at an alarming rate "putting health and lives at risk". Even though it doesn't state it per se, we know from other research and just plain common sense, that one of the reasons asthma rates are skyrocketing (especially among young children) is that toxins are spewing into our air due to our practice of incinerating our garbage. Asthma rates are much higher in both the towns that have the incinerators and their surrounding towns. We are adding to those toxins immeasurably by burning

plastic and paper bags. Paper bags actually add 70% more toxins when they are incinerated than do plastic bags because they are manufactured with chemicals. We in Newtown are not far from Bridgeport which makes this a decidedly Newtown issue. Please keep our children's health in mind and pass the Plastic Bag/Paper Bag Hybrid Ordinance into law on June 5.

From: **Katherine Elise Beasley via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Sun, May 19, 2019 at 7:52 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Sunday, May 19, 2019 - 7:52pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Katherine Elise Beasley

Your e-mail address: keliseb@bellsouth.net

Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

Message: I support this ban wholeheartedly. Styrofoam should be next

From: **Karen Wojtowicz via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Sun, May 19, 2019 at 4:10 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Sunday, May 19, 2019 - 4:10pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Karen Wojtowicz

Your e-mail address: kkwoj@icloud.com

Subject: Get rid of plastic bags!

Message: I support banning plastic bags!

From: **John Seman III via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Sat, May 18, 2019 at 7:26 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Saturday, May 18, 2019 - 7:26am

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: John Seman III

Your e-mail address: jfs223@sbcglobal.net

Subject: Plastic bag ban

Message: My Family of 4 (3 are registered voters) are NOT in favor of the ban of plastic bags.

From: **Kate McGrady via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Date: Fri, May 17, 2019 at 3:12 PM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Legislative Council

To: <plundquist.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Friday, May 17, 2019 - 3:12pm

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your name: Kate McGrady

Your e-mail address: kate.mcguirk@gmail.com

Subject: Please BAN PLASTIC

Message: Please vote to charge for plastic bags in a Newtown. I would love to see straws banned in the town as well! What's more important than the environment in which we live? Thanks!

Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance
Part II: General Ordinances - Health
Chapter XXX: Reusable Checkout Bag Initiative

§ XXX-1 Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to improve the environment in Newtown and the health, safety, and welfare of its residents by reducing the use of plastic bags and paper bags for checkout and purchased goods and encouraging the use of reusable carryout bags.

§ XXX-2 Definitions

For the purpose of this chapter, the following terms and phrases shall have the following meanings:

Checkout bag

A carryout bag that is provided to a customer at the point of sale and used for the purpose of transporting products purchased from or provided by a retail sales establishment.

Business Establishment

Business Establishment means any person, business or non-profit entity that sells or provides merchandise, goods or materials, including, without limitation, clothing, food, or personal items of any kind, directly to a consumer, and includes, by way of example and not limitation, any grocery store, grocery delivery service, department store, hardware store, pharmacy, liquor store, restaurant, catering truck, convenience store, hospital, library, school, including temporary vendors at farmers markets, street fairs and school or Town sponsored events and facilities. Provided, however, Business Establishment shall not apply to yard sales, tag sales and other sales by residents at their homes.

Product bag

A single-use plastic or paper non-checkout bag (see exemptions, below).

Recyclable paper bag

A paper bag that should have the following characteristics:

- (1) One-hundred (100%) percent recyclable overall and contains a minimum of forty (40%) percent post-consumer recycled content; and
- (2) Displays the word "reusable" and "recyclable" on the outside of the bag.

Reusable checkout bag

A bag that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse and is made of cloth or other fabric, or plastic that is a minimum thickness of twelve (12) mil. Plastic reusable bags may not contain lead, cadmium, or any other toxic material that may pose a threat to public health.

Business Point of Contact

The business point of contact is the local business proprietor, manager, business owner, or owner's agent. This person shall be responsible for the retail sales establishment's compliance to this ordinance.

§ XXX-3 Restriction on the distribution of checkout bags

A. No Business Establishment shall provide or sell a plastic checkout bag to a consumer in the Town of Newtown.

B. No Business Establishment shall provide or sell a plastic checkout bag at any Town facility, Town-managed concession, Town-sponsored or Town-permitted event unless otherwise permitted by the Newtown Department or designee charged with enforcement of this ordinance.

§ XXX-4 Acceptable checkout bags

A. Any Business Establishment engaged in retail sale is permitted to provide to customers:

(1) Reusable bags; and/or,

(2) Recyclable paper bags

(a) A Business Establishment shall charge at minimum ten-cent (10 ¢) user fee per paper bag.

(b) All revenue from paper bags sold may be retained by the Business Establishment .

B. The charge for each paper bag sold in quantity and per bag rate shall be indicated on the customer's itemized receipt. If receipts are not routinely provided, notice of the charge shall be posted and visible from every point of sale.

C. Nothing in this section shall preclude any establishment from making reusable checkout bags available for sale to customers or utilize recyclable paper bags as defined previously in Section A. above.

D. Nothing in this Ordinance shall prohibit consumers from using bags or containers, of any type, at the point of checkout that they have brought to a Business Establishment for the purpose of carrying away goods.

§ XXX-5 Exemptions

A. Nothing in this Ordinance shall prohibit consumers from using or Business Establishments from making available bags as listed below:

1. Newspaper bags, door-hanger bags, laundry dry cleaning bags,
2. Bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended for use as garbage, pet waste bags, yard waste bags
3. Bags without handles that are used by consumers inside stores to package bulk items; such as fasteners, nuts and bolts; produce, nuts, grains, candy, meat, or fish, whether packaged or not; and unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods
4. Bags used to carry flowers, potted plants or other items where dampness may be a problem;
5. Bags used to carry pharmacy prescriptions; or items that required bags to safeguard public health during the transportation of hospital waste.
6. Any other bags that the enforcement officer deems to not fit the definition or intent of a carryout bag

C. Restaurants and establishments offering freshly prepared foods are exempted from the requirement to charge for paper bags.

D. Gift store/boutiques shall charge a minimum ten-cent (10¢) user fee per gift bag do not have to meet the recyclability or other requirement of paper bags. Plastic gift bags shall not be permitted.

E. Business Establishment making available non-recyclable paper bags or bags that do not meet the recyclability content requirements set forth in this ordinance (for example paper bags bearing a logo) may charge a minimum of fifteen-cent (15¢) per bag.

§ XXX-6 Operative Date

This ordinance shall become operative four (4) months following its effective date to allow Business Establishment to dispose of their existing inventory of non-compliant checkout bags and convert to alternative packaging materials.

§ XXX-7 Enforcement

A. This ordinance shall be implemented, administered and enforced by the town of Newtown and any town department or town body designated by the First Selectman.

B. Violations

1. Upon being made aware of a potential violation of this ordinance, the applicable Newtown Town Department or designated enforcement authority, as the case may be, ("Enforcement Authority") shall investigate as to whether a violation of the ordinance has occurred.
2. If the investigation confirms that a violation has occurred, then the Enforcement Authority shall give written notice, by in-hand service or certified mail, to the violator or his or its designee, to cease desist the offending activity within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the notice.

3. Upon receipt of the notice of violation, the Business Establishment or its representative shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Enforcement Authority or its representative that the offending activity has ceased within the fourteen (14) day period . Failure to correct said violation within the said fourteen (14) day period shall result in a penalty of \$100. Each day that the violation continues subsequent to the aforesaid fourteen (14) day period shall constitute a separate violation (in the amount of \$100 per day) until said violation shall cease as verified by the Enforcement Authority or its representative.

C. Appeals Procedure.

1. For any Business Establishment seeking to appeal any fine or violation, the procedures set forth in the Code of the Town of Newtown § 132-10, Appeals procedure, Subsections A through E, shall apply.

§ XXX-8 Non-Compliance

In the event that compliance with the effective date of this ordinance is not feasible for a Business Establishment because of either unavailability of alternative checkout bags or economic hardship, the First Selectman may grant a waiver of not more than six (6) months upon application of the business Point of Contact. The waiver may be extended for one (1) additional six-month period upon showing of continued infeasibility as set forth above.

Chapter 124 - Elections

Article 1 - Board of Education Elections

§124-1 Purpose

The purpose of this article is to clarify and memorialize the processes by which Board of Education members are to be elected in the Town of Newtown, pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes.

§124-2 Adoption of Alternative Methods of Election

A. The Town of Newtown adopts section 9-204b of the Connecticut General Statutes to govern the process by which Board of Education members are to be elected.

B. The number of votes given to an elector in an election year shall be equal to the number of seats up for election in said year.

C. Each political party shall have the right to nominate as many persons as there are vacancies on the board and those names shall be placed upon the ballot.

D. If the number of candidates who would be elected exceeds the maximum number established in subdivision 2-10(b)(2) of the Charter, then only the candidates of such political party with the highest number of votes up to the limit of such maximum, shall be elected. The next highest ranking candidates, not from such political party, shall be elected, up to the number of places to be filled in each election.

**TOWN OF NEWTOWN
APPROPRIATION (BUDGET) TRANSFER REQUEST**

FISCAL YEAR 2018 - 2019 DEPARTMENT Public Works DATE 4/29/19

	Account		Amount	
FROM:	1-101-13-500-5110-0000SALARIES & WAGES - FULL TIME	HWY	(115,000)	USE NEGATIVE AMOUNT
	1-101-13-510-5661-0000SALT	WINTER MAINT	(30,000)	
	1-101-13-650-5411-0000WATER / SEWERAGE	BLDG MAINT	(13,000)	
	1-101-13-510-5130-0000SALARIES & WAGES - OVERTIME	WINTER MAINT	(6,000)	
	1-101-13-515-5110-0000SALARIES & WAGES - FULL TIME	TRANS STA	(3,000)	
	1-101-13-515-5130-0000SALARIES & WAGES - OVERTIME	TRANS STA	(5,000)	
	1-101-11-180-5360-0000PROF SVS - ELECTION	REGISTRARS	(3,000)	
	.			
	.			
TO:	1-101-13-510-5660-0000SAND	WINTER MAINT	11,400	USE POSITIVE AMOUNT
	1-101-13-500-5653-0000ROAD PATCHING MATERIALS	HWY	13,000	
	1-101-13-650-5130-0000SALARIES & WAGES - OVERTIME	BLDG MIANT	5,000	
	1-101-13-650-5505-0000CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	BLDG MAINT	20,600	
	1-101-13-515-5505-0000CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	TRANS STA	58,000	
	1-101-13-650-5624-0000ENERGY - OIL	BLDG MAINT	53,000	
	1-101-13-650-5622-0000ENERGY - ELECTRICITY	BLDG MAINT	14,000	
	.			

REASON:

All inter-department (except \$3,000). See attached memo for explanation.

AUTHORIZATION:

- (1) DEPARTMENT HEAD
- (2) FINANCE DIRECTOR
- (3) SELECTMAN
- (4) BOARD OF SELECTMEN
- (5) BOARD OF FINANCE
- (6) LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

[Handwritten signatures and initials over the authorization list]

date:

5/3/19

5/3/19

5-6-19

5-6-19

AUTHORIZATION SIGN OFF

FIRST 335 DAYS >>>>WITH IN A DEPT.>>>>LESS THAN \$50,000>>>> (1), (2) & (3) SIGNS OFF; MORE THAN \$50,000>>>> (1), (2), (3) & (5)
 >>>>ONE DEPT TO ANOTHER>>>>LESS THAN \$200,000>>>>ALL EXCEPT (6); MORE THAN \$200,000>>>>ALL SIGN OFF
 AFTER 335 DAYS >>>>(1), (2), (3), (5) & (6) ANY AMOUNT FROM CONTINGENCY>>>> ALL SIGN OFF



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The source accounts are all sufficient to year end after this transfer. The largest amounts available were due to delay in filling personnel vacancies; employees out on workers' compensation or disability and some of the benefits of fewer severe winter storms. The other surplus came in the Water and Sewer budget from a reduction in benefit assessments due to reaching final payoff.

The accounts requiring assistance did so for very different reasons:

Winter Sand – Due to more ice rather than snow events, there was the need for more applications of sand to provide traction rather than salt.

Patch – While the winter storms were fewer in number, the same was not true of the freeze/thaw cycles nor the amount of rain that hydraulically pushed patch material out of potholes. The need is greater this year for the reasons stated.

Overtime/Building Maintenance – The need is the result of a number of off hour call backs for system failures and coverage for workman's compensation situations.

Contractual Services/Building Maintenance – There were a number of unanticipated mechanical system failures including but not limited to pumps, wells and condensers. This transfer covers the current shortage and provides funding to year end.

Contractual Services/Transfer Station – This request is almost entirely due to a recycling processing tip fee increase that started January 1st and added approximately \$50,000 in cost by itself. The balance of the transfer covers other fee increases and additional processing for storm debris not covered by FEMA.

Energy/Building Heat – This increase was needed to cover higher consumption and cost than anticipated for natural gas due to the community center.

Electricity/Building Maintenance – This covers the billing for the Landfill solar field for the beginning of last year that was not billed until this year. That expense is already accounted for in the next budget. The balance of the request covers unanticipated costs for new facilities such as the new PD site. We have made allowances for covering these costs in the next budget.

Finally, we will be keeping close tabs during the next budget on any of these items that may carry forward and make necessary adjustments as soon as possible.

- A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,858.20 TO BE FUNDED FROM THE SANDY HOOK SPECIAL REVENUE FUND “UNDESIGNATED” DONATION ACCOUNT 133-4014 FOR THE PURPOSE OF A MEMORIAL PLAQUE FOR THE VICTIMS AS AGREED UPON BY THE FAMILIES ADVOCATE. THIS PLAQUE WILL BE PLACED IN THE LOBBY OF THE NEWTOWN COMMUNITY CENTER. ALSO, FOR THE LEGACY/COMMUNITY WALL CONCEPT. THESE FUNDS WILL BE USED TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF THE SOFTWARE AND TECHNOLOGY TO HOST THIS COMPONENT AS WELL AS INSTALLATION. THE LEGACY/COMMUNITY WALL CONCEPT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE FAMILIES.