

MOTION

May 27, 2020

City Clerk  
City Hall  
Regina, Saskatchewan

Dear Sir:

Re: Checkout Bag Bylaw

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WHEREAS the City of Regina strives to reduce and divert waste from residential, industrial, commercial and institutional sectors as outlined in Waste Plan Regina;

WHEREAS plastic checkout bags are an environmental hazard that litter our community, clog our landfill, and choke our rivers and waterways;

WHEREAS alternatives to plastic checkout bags such as reusable and/or paper bags are readily available and are in use at many retail locations for checkout;

WHEREAS many jurisdictions throughout Canada and the United States have banned plastic checkout bags, with appropriate exemptions;

WHEREAS the City of Prince Albert has implemented *Bylaw No. 33-2019 Plastic Checkout Bag* which prohibits a retail business or food service business from providing, distributing, selling or using plastic Checkout Bags, with appropriate exemptions;

WHEREAS the City of Prince Albert bylaw, attached for reference as Attachment 'A,' provides a useful model for consideration by the City of Regina Council and Administration;

WHEREAS a major Canadian food retailer, Sobeys, has banned the use of plastic checkout bags and successfully implemented alternative solutions;

WHEREAS penalties for violating a checkout bag prohibition should first consist of warnings, followed by fines increasing for subsequent infractions;

WHEREAS such a prohibition would not come into effect immediately upon adoption so as to enable the City to educate the public and retailers on the reasons for, and effect of, such a ban and so as to give the public and retailers time to make the necessary adjustments;

WHEREAS such a prohibition should not come into effect for so long as any COVID-19 or any other related health emergency is in effect; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The City Solicitor be directed to prepare a bylaw that includes the following regulations:
  - a. prohibiting retail businesses and food service businesses from providing, distributing, selling or using plastic checkout bags;
  - b. contain exemptions as appropriate and in line with the exemptions contained in similar bylaws adopted by other jurisdictions;
  - c. enforcement of this bylaw:
    - i. come into effect one year from its adoption to enable retailers and the public to make the necessary preparations; and
    - ii. not take place during COVID-19 or any other related health emergency; and
2. The Administration undertake a public education campaign to inform retailers and residents of the reasons for, and content of, the said bylaw.

Respectfully submitted,



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Bob Hawkins  
Councillor – Ward 2