

File No. 100462

Committee Item No.

Board Item No. 32

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee: _____

Date: _____

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date April 13, 2010

Cmte Board

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Completed by: Andrea Ausberry

Date April 8, 2010

Completed by: _____

Date _____

An asterisked item represents the cover sheet to a document that exceeds 25 pages. The complete document is in the file.

1 [Regulations to Ensure that Reusable Bags are Suitably Durable and Do Not Contribute to the
2 Landfill Waste Stream]

3
4 **Resolution requesting Director of Department of the Environment, under the**
5 **authority of Section 1704, of Chapter 17, of the San Francisco Municipal Environment**
6 **Code, to promulgate new, or amend existing, regulations to ensure that reusable bags**
7 **are suitably durable and do not contribute to the landfill waste stream.**

8 WHEREAS, Checkout bags use increasingly scarce resources including energy, and
9 create pollution from production through disposal; and,

10 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco adopted the Plastic Bag Reduction
11 Ordinance (Environment Code Chapter 17) in 2007; and

12 WHEREAS, The intention of the Ordinance was to reduce the use of single-use plastic
13 bags by banning them at supermarkets and drugstores; and,

14 WHEREAS, The Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance allows stores to give away reusable
15 bags, which are defined as including any plastic bag at least 2.5 mil thick; and

16 WHEREAS, This definition has resulted in the unintended consequence of some stores
17 distributing 2.5 mil thick polyethylene plastic bags, which may not be suitably durable, to
18 customers for free; and,

19 WHEREAS, Plastic bags provided for free at checkout are usually perceived as
20 disposable products which consumers then continue to treat as single-use plastic bags being
21 used on average for just a few minutes, thus creating an impediment to increasing bag reuse;
22 and,
23
24
25

1 WHEREAS, Plastic bags, even those composed of post-consumer waste, are neither
2 recyclable in the blue bin stream nor compostable and are currently major contaminants in
3 San Francisco's recycling and composting programs; and,

4 WHEREAS, Many of the offices of the members of to Board of Supervisors have and
5 continue to receive complaints from the general public regarding the thicker plastic bags
6 which are perceived as violating the Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance; and,

7 WHEREAS, The Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance allows the Director of the
8 Department of the Environment, after a public hearing, to adopt or amend guideline, rules and
9 regulation in order to implement the Ordinance; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests the Director of the Department of
11 the Environment to promulgate new, or amend existing, regulations to ensure that reusable
12 bags are suitably durable, and do not contribute to the landfill waste stream.