

Carryout Bag Ordinance

Rebuilding Stronger, Smarter, Safer



On Earth Day, April 22, 2017, all business establishments will begin charging a minimum five (5) cent fee for each carryout bag made of plastic, paper, or reusable material (thicker plastic or cloth) – **customers who bring their own bags will not be charged.**

What does the Carryout Bag Ordinance require?

- **Fee:** Business establishments must begin charging no less than five (5) cents for each carryout bag they provide to customers. All fees collected are retained by the business establishment.
- **Fee Exemptions:** Customers using NYS Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or NYS Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), as full or partial payment shall not be charged. Bags without handles that are used to carry produce, meats, loose baked goods, loose dry goods, dry cleaning, newspaper delivery bags, liquor store sales, flowers or other non-prepackaged food items to the point of sale within a store or market, or to prevent such items from coming in direct contact with other purchased items, or a bag provided by a doctor, pharmacist, or veterinarian to carry prescription drugs, shall not carry a charge;
- **Signage:** Business establishments shall post signage at or near points of sale to notify customers. Signs can be downloaded in English or Spanish at www.longbeachny.gov/bags;
- **Penalties** for businesses in non-compliance are as follows: \$100 for first violation; \$200.00 for the second; \$250 for the third and subsequent violations. The ordinance will be enforced, as most other ordinances are enforced – on a complaint basis.

What can you do to prepare for the Carryout Bag Ordinance...

...as a shopper?

- ✓ Bring your own bags to the store; make a note on your shop list or leave them in the car;
- ✓ Sign up for bag giveaway info at www.longbeachny.gov/bags;
- ✓ Use alternatives for pet waste/trash liners: scoopers or newspaper/cereal/snack bags.

...as a business?

- ✓ Train staff to understand the ordinance. Submit questions at www.longbeachny.gov/bags;
- ✓ Begin asking your customers, “Did you bring your reusable bag today?”;
- ✓ Use alternatives, including cardboard boxes and insulated food delivery bags.

For more info and to submit questions visit longbeachny.gov/bags