



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

February 5, 2014

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Garrett Toy, Town Manager 

SUBJECT: Discuss/consider a requirement for all stores, shops, eating places, food, and retail food vendors to charge a mandatory fee for paper bags provided at check out

RECOMMENDATION

Provide direction to staff

DISCUSSION

In 2008, the Fairfax voters approved an ordinance reducing the use of plastic bags in Town. The ordinance requires affected businesses to provide recycled paper bags and/or reusable bags to customers. However, the ordinance does not require a mandatory fee for paper bags, but does allow businesses to sell reusable bags.

In addition to Fairfax, the County of Marin (i.e., unincorporated areas) and Mill Valley currently have plastic bag bans. Their bans require a minimum 5-cent charge for paper bags. All of the other cities and towns in Marin County are considering plastic bag bans with minimum charges for paper bags. In order to have some consistency among the various ordinances for those businesses that have locations in multi-jurisdictions, it may be worthwhile to consider a mandatory charge. The Marin Hazard and Solid Waste JPA reports that most jurisdictions statewide that are adopting plastic bag bans are requiring a mandatory fee for paper bags.

If staff is directed to implement a mandatory fee requirement, we will bring the item back at a future Council meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT

None