



## **Hamden's Checkout Bag Ordinance** *Effective March 14, 2019* *Enforceable as of September 14, 2019*

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What is a Checkout Bag?**

A **Checkout Bag** is a carryout bag that is provided to a customer at the point of sale. Checkout bag excludes a **Product Bag**. A product bag is a single use plastic bag used by consumers inside stores to package foods such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, unwrapped prepared foods, bakery goods, meat, fish, flowers and potted plants.

#### **What is the Checkout Bag Ordinance?**

On February 19, 2019, the Town of Hamden's Legislative Council approved a regulation, known as the Regulation of Certain Plastic Bags Ordinance, that prohibits retail establishments from providing or selling **Plastic Checkout Bags**. It will become operative September 14, 2019.

#### **What is the intent of the Checkout Bag Ordinance?**

The intent of the ordinance is to improve the environment, ban **Plastic Checkout Bags** and promote the use of Reusable Checkout Bags.

#### **If Plastic Checkout Bags will not be available how can I carry my groceries and merchandise home?**

You are encouraged to bring your own reusable bag. Businesses can provide a **Recycled Paper Checkout Bag**. A **Recycled Paper Checkout Bag** is a bag that contains a minimum of 40% post-consumer recycled content, is 100% recyclable, and has printed on the bag the words "Reusable" and "Recyclable", the name and location of the manufacturer, and the percentage of post-consumer recycled content. Alternatively, you are encouraged to use your own **Re-useable Checkout Bags**. A Re-useable Checkout Bag is a bag designed and manufactured for multiple reuses and is made of cloth or other fabric and are readily available.

#### **Who enforces the Checkout Bag Ordinance?**

The Town of Hamden Litter Enforcement Officer enforces the Checkout Bag Ordinance (after September 14, 2019). The Litter Enforcement Officer can order abatement and issues citations to any business or person that violates the Ordinance.



**Hamden's Regulation of Single Use Straws**  
***Effective March 14, 2019***  
***Enforceable as of September 14, 2019***

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is a Single Use Straw?**

A Single use straw is defined in the regulation as a product that is designed to be only used one time in its same form by the customer, food vendor or entity.

**What does Hamden's Regulation of Single Use Straws entail?**

On February 19, 2019, the Town of Hamden's Legislative Council approved a regulation that prohibits any business that provides food or beverages in the Town of Hamden to make single use straws available to its customer unless the customer requests one. The regulation applies to both dine-in and take-out food orders.

**What is the purpose of the Regulation?**

The purpose of the ordinance is to prevent litter and protect the environment in the Town of Hamden.

**What if I need or want a Single Use Straw?**

The food or beverage vendor can provide a single use straw only if you request one.

**Who enforces the Single Use Straw Regulation?**

The Town of Hamden Litter Enforcement Officer enforces the Single Use Straw Regulation. The Litter Enforcement Officer can order abatement and issues citations to any business or person that violates the Ordinance.