



August 1, 2019

TO: Hamden Business Establishment Owner/Operators

RE: Town of Hamden's Regulation of Plastic Bags

On February 19, 2019 the Legislative Council of the Town of Hamden approved an ordinance to ban the use of plastic bags. (Town of Hamden Ordinance Chapter 126: Regulation of certain Plastic Bags) The Ordinance has a multipurpose intent: reduce bag waste to protect the environment, promote reusable bags and prohibit the provision of Plastic Checkout Bags at the time of checkout.

The ordinance prohibits Business establishments in the Town of Hamden to provide or sell plastic checkout bags. Within the ordinance, the term plastic checkout bag is defined as a carryout bag that is provided to a customer at the point of sale. It **does not** include bags used by the consumer to package fruits, vegetables, bulk items (nuts, grain, candy), bags that contain or wrap meat, fish, flowers, plants or baked goods, pharmacy prescription bags, newspaper bags, laundry or dry-cleaning bags and packages of multiple bags (Ziplocs, pet waste bags, etc.)

Acceptable checkout bags that can be provided to the customer include:

- Recycled paper checkout bags (defined as a bag that is 100% recyclable and has printed in a highly visible manner on the bag the word "Reusable" and "Recyclable", the name and location of the manufacturer and the percentage of post-consumer recycled content.)
- Reusable checkout bags (defined as a bag that is designed and manufactured for multiple reuses and is made of cloth or other fabric.)

The ordinance will become operative September 14, 2019. The interim period will allow business establishments to use their inventory of plastic checkout bags. If you find this to be a hardship, please contact QVHD by September 8<sup>th</sup> at 203-248-4528, [info@qvhd.org](mailto:info@qvhd.org) or visit [www.qvhd.org/BYOHamden](http://www.qvhd.org/BYOHamden) for additional information. After September 14, 2019, the Town of Hamden has designated QVHD to notify, in writing, any establishment found to be non-compliant with the ordinance and to report such non-compliance to the Town of Hamden Litter Enforcement Officer who will follow up and, if non-compliance continues, will issue a Notice of Violation, citation and impose fines and penalties as allowed in the ordinance.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Leslie Balch  
Director of Health

CC: Curt Leng Mayor  
Sue Gruen, Town Attorney