



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

250 Broadway, Suite 1762
New York, NY 10007

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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Contact:

Marian Guerra [CM Chin] 212-788-7259

Genna Morton [CM Lander] 718-499-1090

BILL TO ENACT SMALL FEE ON DISPOSABLE BAGS PASSES AS PART OF NYC'S 'GREEN NEW DEAL'

Chin and Lander's legislation part of City Council's effort to reduce waste and combat disastrous effects of climate change



NEW YORK, NY – Today, the New York City Council passed legislation, 38-9, to include a 5-cent fee on disposable single use bags not covered by the state's recent agreement to ban plastic bags.

Intro 1527, sponsored by Council Members Margaret Chin and Brad Lander, will drive a significant reduction in single-use bag waste – especially waste from paper bags, which are not covered under the state's ban.

"As the representative of Lower Manhattan neighborhoods that are still fighting to fully recover from Superstorm Sandy, I am proud to be part of this citywide effort to dramatically reduce waste and combat climate change," said **Council Member Margaret S. Chin**. "This legislation to dramatically reduce paper bag waste will ensure that clogged storm drains, polluted waterways and parkland riddled with non-biodegradable bag waste will be a part of New York City's past – not its future. While our efforts to create a greener, more resilient City are far from being finished, I am heartened by the process we have been able to make by working together."

"Adding a 5-cent fee on paper bags to New York's new plastic bag ban will dramatically reduce solid waste and make the new policy a genuine win for the environment, and I'm thrilled the Council passed our legislation to be ready for Earth Day," said **Council Member Brad Lander**. "Six years after Council Member Chin and I began this campaign, and two years after Albany pre-empted New York City's attempt to solve this problem on our own, Albany has finally made the right move for the environment by banning plastic bags statewide. But to truly see a reduction in waste, our policy must encourage people to switch to reusable bags, which everyone can do. I want to thank Speaker Johnson for his strong support of our bill, just one piece of a package of bills passed today that will make New York a greener and more sustainable city, and all of the environmental advocates who fought for many years to finally get rid of plastic bags, and who are as excited as we are to be taking another important step forward for the environment."

The NYC Department of Sanitation estimates that New Yorkers use about 30,000 tons of paper bags every year. Of those discarded bags, only 25 percent are recycled. Furthermore, the manufacture of paper bags and transportation of paper bag waste produces significant water and ground level air pollution – with low-income communities experiencing the worst effects.

Together with the state's ban on plastic bags, the Council's legislation will lead to the removal of thousands of tons of single use bag waste.

The legislation exempts New Yorkers on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) who use an Electronic Benefits Card.

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