

Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself?	If no, what organization or whom do you represent?	Legislation	Position	Remarks	Attachments
Bill No. 89-24											
2024-11-28 8:53:37	Raymond	Berry	Pasadena	MD	21122	Yes		Bill No. 89-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Current Expense Budget – Board of Education – Supplementary Appropriation	Oppose	After imposing a property tax increase and having state revenue from gambling proceeds, and other state revenue sources, and having nearly 50% of the current operating budget spent toward education and food services, Mr. Pittman wants to spend an additional \$15M+ more of tax payer funds toward services that should have had sufficient funds as projected under the current operating budget. What are the reasons for not having sufficient funds to cover the cited expenses from the current budget? Are monies being misappropriated, wasted and abused? Has the county auditor investigated this shortfall and determined that need for requesting additional funds is justified, versus, re-appropriation of funds within the existing education and food services budget? We need these answers before any additional funding beyond the 50% already allocated toward education and food services is appropriated.	
Bill No. 92-24											
2024-11-21 1:39:46	Pam	Ausiello	Crofton	MD	21114	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Oppose	I feel doing away with the .10 bag fee would lessen the amount of people bringing their own recycling bags or using no bags even. I myself have appreciated the fee because it allows me to think sustainably and has been a motivator in remembering to bring recycling bags to stores. The common purpose we should all have is to be thinking more sustainably for the environment. So I oppose removing the bag fee.	
2024-11-24 11:43:05	Suzanne	Duffy	ANNAPOLIS	MD	21401	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Support	Dear Council Members, This entire bill was/is frivolous, has been a waste of taxpayers & your time, it never should have passed IMHO. Please support these improvements to this bill. Plastic bags public safety, this is an enormous stretch. Some of us remember paper bags being vilified as a danger to the trees/forests, they were banned, now they are in vogue again? Do you realize to many of us this makes zero sense? The Retailers Association ought to be fined for this fool's errand of time ill spent over this matter. Upon entering a store one notices their trash containers have plastic bags, our fruit/veggies are put in plastic bags, everything is packaged in plastic. Did anyone consider many of us reuse plastic bags over & over again, or recycle them when no longer in good condition? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · requirement to charge for [paper] bags (bill's purpose mistakenly states "plastic" OH MY); · requirement of retail establishments to provide free reusable carryout bags during certain dates; · violation of failure to charge, collect, or retain fees per bag; and · generally related to public safety Once more I ask you to support these proposed amendments, Thank you for your consideration, Suzanne Duffy, Annapolis 21401	
2024-11-25 10:28:04	Mary	Phelps	Glen Burnie	MD	21061	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Support	We should pass the amendment and/or eliminate the original bill altogether. We switched to plastic bags years ago under the mantra of protecting the trees.... which I still support.	
2024-11-25 14:02:18	Marideth	Canzanella	Edgewater	Maryland	21037	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Support		
2024-11-25 14:19:17	Michael	Norris	Severna Park	Md	21146	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Support	I support bill 92-24 for all of the reasons cited - mobility, inflation and consumer choice.	
2024-11-25 14:22:50	Dorothea	Oliff	Riva	Md	21140	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Support	I think bill 92-24 introduced by Councilwoman Shannon Leadbetter should be passed. It is so hard for some people and it is making life more difficult then it is already. Also I am curious why the burden of payment falls on the public that is purchasing. Stores were furnishing bags all along so why are they not still paying.	
2024-11-25 15:27:16	Milly B	Welsh	Davidsonville	MD	21035	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Oppose	It's time for us to choose to live in a cleaner environment. This bill is a step backwards.	
2024-11-26 11:46:26	Debra	Gage	Lothian	MD	20711	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Oppose	The plastic bag fee passed for a reason and needs to remain in place. It has been proven over and over again that it greatly reduces the amount of single use plastic in general and also in the natural environment. For the vast majority of AA Co citizens this fee is optional and people can choose to pay the 10 cents or bring their own bags. Many other countries have been doing this for years. I have yet to hear anyone complain about this change.	

Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself?	If no, what organization or whom do you represent?	Legislation	Position	Remarks	Attachments
2024-11-26 13:35:08	Thomas	Phillips	Harwood	MD	20776	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Support	I fully support the intent of Bill 92-24 - let the businesses decide whether to charge for bags. While the intent of current legislation is appreciated, businesses should be able to decide whether to charge for bags, taking into account their customer preferences. Thank you.	
2024-11-26 15:23:56	Sydney	Sowell	Dunkirk	MD	20754	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Oppose	We need to keep that requirement in place to continue to reduce waste, trash and ruination of our environment. I haven't heard anyone complain about the 10 cent charge for a bag. This ordinance as it exists, teaches people the right way to treat our environment.	
2024-11-26 18:14:13	Ray	Alcorn	Davidsonville	MD	21035	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Support	The current mandated ten cent charge for bags at retail stores in Anne Arundel County is another "tax" on county residents. Over the years service at retail stores has been in decline. A retailer providing a bag for customers to carry their purchases home is a basic service that customers should not have to pay for. Over the last 4 years inflation has increased at an alarming rate and this has placed a strain on all county residents. This additional fee is not necessary and needs to be removed.	
2024-11-26 20:12:00	Chuck	Thompson	Pasadena	MD	21122	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Support	Please support his bill to repeal the government mandated 10 cent charge for paper bags and the restrictions on how often a business may give away reusable bags. Mandating fees that retail establishments have to charge has unintended consequences that make matters worse. In this case the handheld baskets provided by retail establishments have disappeared. Customers who forget to bring their own bags have used these baskets to carry their purchases home. In addition, from a macro perspective, we want entrepreneurs to establish their business in Anne Arundel County, so government should promote policies to make it attractive to grow and develop their business in the county. Saddling entrepreneurs with government mandates and regulations defeats this objective. Thank you for your time.	
2024-11-29 13:12:14	Sarah	Price	Annapolis	MD	21401	No	Maryland Retailers	Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Oppose	Please find attached an infographic sheet prepared by the Maryland Retailers Alliance (MRA) regarding the average cost of carryout bags for businesses. Due to the relatively high cost of paper bags, MRA continues to support the carryout bag law as passed with a \$0.10 charge per paper bag to be maintained by the retail business. This charge is set at the appropriate amount to offset the mandated increase in operating costs, particularly for grocery stores which utilize a high volume of bags on a day-to-day basis.	https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_legislative_testimony/43565/bagprices_2024.pdf
2024-12-01 13:15:16	Farhad	Farmanara	Crofton	Maryland	21114	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Support	I support the plastic bag ban. Please DO NOT repeal and give nature a chance.	
2024-12-01 16:31:54	Lillian	Van Rompay	Gambrills	MD	21054	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Oppose	I do not think any changes need to be made to the legislation passed earlier this year. If people want to get a bag at the point of sale rather than bring their own, they should pay for it. The legislation is supposed to act as an incentive to bringing your own bag; removing the cost associated with a paper or reusable bag removes that incentive.	
2024-12-01 16:34:29	Christine	Levine	Odenton	MD	21113	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Support	While I agree that there is too much plastic waste (in general), the prohibition of plastic grocery bags places an undue strain on lower income individuals, single parents, parents of young children, and the elderly. Those persons may not have the time (or ability) to remember their re-usable bags or may be too busy to deal with that extra step. Charging a fee for a single use, flimsy paper bag only adds to the stress and financial burden that those groups of people often face. Additionally, some of us prefer to re-use the plastic grocery bags as trash bags for our bathrooms and/or cars. The smaller trash bags that are available for purchase contain more plastic (which does not break down as easily as the grocery bags), thereby further adding to the plastic pollution.	
2024-12-01 17:59:50	David	Gilmer	Crownsville	Md	21032	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Support	Bring back plastic bags at the stores. Everything in the store is wrapped in plastic, I put my veggies in plastic bags, grapes, tomatoes, salad, cucumbers, meats, etc... all wrapped in plastic and I have to pay for a paper bag that also ends up in the landfill. This is clearly political or you idiots would outlaw plastic veggie bags as well. End this foolishness.	
2024-12-01 21:39:42	Peggy	Williams	Severna Park	MD	21146	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Support	I support this bill. The purpose of civil government is to protect rights, not demand that businesses and people behave a certain way, and not to control aspects of our lives down to these minute details. Plastic bags are already banned; the public understands the environmental ramifications of careless practices, and will adjust accordingly. With the amendments in this bill, we can stop some of the overreach - enough already!	

Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself?	If no, what organization or whom do you represent?	Legislation	Position	Remarks	Attachments
2024-12-01 21:44:01	JoAnne	Zoller	Glen Burnie	MD	21061	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Oppose	Ruth Bader Ginsburg once wisely compared changing legislation which has worked well to "throwing out your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet." The Bring Your Own Bag Act has worked exceedingly well, as 72% of Anne Arundel shoppers are now using their own bag (39%) or not using a bag at all (33%). Anne Arundel shoppers have nearly done away with single-use waste from shopping bags! The laws of economics predict that consumers will opt for convenience when available. The 33% who use no bag now will probably choose paper bags if there is no charge. And those who now use paper bags will use even more paper bags. The laws of economics also predict that the retailers will pass the cost of the paper bags on to all consumers. This is unfair to those who have not been using paper bags. Net result: piles of paper bags will either show up in county trash, or in recycling. In the former case, they increase landfill waste; in the latter, they necessitate further manufacture processing of a bag which originated from felled trees, fouled air and polluted waters. Since eliminating the 10-cent charge does not in reality relieve shoppers of that small charge because it will simply be passed right back to all shoppers, and since we already have a glut of county waste to handle, why fold up our umbrellas and not expect to get wet? "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!"	
2024-12-01 22:28:03	Bernie	Robinson	Glen Burnie	MD	21061	No	Anne Arundel Gr	Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Oppose	In June 2023, the County Council passed the Bring Your Own Bag Act, which had been carefully crafted to work, based on the experience of surrounding counties and municipalities which had passed similar bills. The primary aim of the bill was to reduce single-use waste in our county. Since January 2024, 72% of Anne Arundel shoppers transitioned to bringing their own reusable shopping bags or not using a bag at all! Only 27% of shoppers were purchasing paper bags, which entail considerable upstream pollution. Bill 92-24 proposes to reverse this success by removing the charge for paper bags. In the attached file, I am sharing a bar chart of similar bills passed by surrounding municipalities and counties. It should be clear from the chart that the municipalities which passed their bills with no paper bag charge had a poor result, with only 31-49% of shoppers bringing a reusable bag or using no bag at all. (Laurel rectified their bill by adding a charge for paper bags, and doubled their success to reach 66% of shoppers.) Maryland counties which passed BYOB bills with a charge for paper bags were successful from the outset, with 66%-80% of shoppers bringing their own bag or using no bag. We cannot assume that shoppers will continue their environmentally friendly shopping habits if we remove the charge for paper bags. Let's keep our success by keeping the BYOB Act intact and aligning ourselves with other Maryland counties and municipalities which have achieved similar success.	https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_legislative_testimony/43640/figure-of-before-and-after-surveys-in-all-jurisdictions-ban-or-byob_page-1.docx
2024-12-02 4:00:17	Alexandra	LeFevre	MILLERSVILLE	MD	21108	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Oppose	I am in opposition to this bill. I admit I was confused when I showed up to the grocery store the first time and saw signs on the door that they would soon not be providing bags anymore. But to be honest I already had reusable bags in my possession that I was not using. This was the kick in the pants to get me to keep them in my car and actually use them and it's been working. It's not a huge deal, people. The reusable bags are cheap, just pay once and use them. I'm thankful i saw the post on nextdoor in support of this bill (and all the comments who were, like me, opposed). Getting rid of our small scale efforts isn't the answer to "hypocrisy" of so many plastics still being out there. If only we had people in government keeping big corporations accountable for their part, too.	https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_legislative_testimony/43647/screenshot_20241202_035945_chrome.jpg
2024-12-02 8:19:09	Robert	Savidge	Annapolis	MD	21403	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Oppose	Please oppose Bill No. 92-24. While I am glad the sponsors have acknowledged that behavior is starting to change, they present insufficient justification for changing it. Their first assertion is that behavior has changed, so the fee is no longer needed. Yet they have not provided any data that supports their assumption that the behavior change would continue without the fee. To the contrary, the Sierra Club and other jurisdictions have information indicating that the fee is what changes behavior. To say that the behavior change would continue without the fee defies logic. Their second assertion is that seniors are negatively impacted by the 10cent fee. While I find it questionable whether a 10cent fee would be so impactful, if it is indeed an issue the solution should be to introduce an amendment that would exempt the delivery service from the fee structure. If the sponsors' goal is truly to respond to seniors, then amend this legislation to do just that. But don't undermine the entire bag reduction effort by removing the fee entirely. Such an amendment is a path forward to address their express concerns. If undermining the entire bag reduction effort is not their genuine goal, they should agree to this. But the current approach takes a hammer to the entire effort and should not be supported.	
2024-12-02 9:31:22	Pamela	Palumbo	Edgewater	Maryland	21037	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Support	We 100% urge our county to drop the requirement for businesses to charge for a paper bag. Leave that up to the business if they want to or not. We are a family who composts or recycles nearly every bit of waste, is watchful of energy wastefulness and cares deeply for our planet. But requiring businesses to charge a fee or fining them, is overreach and burdensome for consumers and businesses alike. We strongly support this legislation.	
2024-12-02 10:15:51	Rick	van der Veen-Bo	Severna Park	MD	21146	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Oppose	Paper bags also contribute to waste, and take resources to use. I understand the argument that seniors who need groceries delivered are on fixed incomes, but IT'S TEN CENTS PER BAG. That's not going to bankrupt *anyone*. The environment is worth a tiny bit of sacrifice. If you're not willing to pay ten cents per bag, what does that say about your empathy for the generations we are handing this planet to?	

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2024-12-02 10:22:38	Brandon	Graham	ODENTON	MD	21113	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Oppose	<p>Honorable Members of the Council,</p> <p>I respectfully urge you to repeal or suspend the 10-cent paper bag fee. While intended to promote sustainability, this policy disproportionately burdens residents, lacks transparency, and fails to deliver measurable environmental benefits.</p> <p>Economic Burden: The fee acts as a regressive tax, disproportionately impacting low-income households. Over 33,000 Anne Arundel residents live below the poverty line, and 14,000 households rely on SNAP benefits. For these families, even a \$10.40 annual cost adds strain. Additionally, county residents collectively pay over \$1.2 million annually in fees, without reinvestment in environmental programs or community benefits.</p> <p>Transparency Deficit: Retailers retain fee revenue without mandated reporting, leaving residents with no assurance these funds are used for environmental goals. I urge the Council to implement mandatory quarterly reporting and an independent audit to assess the fee's financial and environmental impacts.</p> <p>Questionable Efficacy: Anne Arundel County provides no data showing the fee has reduced waste or increased reusable bag adoption. Studies elsewhere suggest such policies often shift reliance to paper bags, which have higher environmental costs. Without evidence, this fee risks being punitive, not transformative.</p> <p>Proposed Solutions: Equitable alternatives include subsidizing reusable bags for low-income residents and incentive programs like Washington, D.C.'s rebate system, which successfully reduced waste while encouraging reusable bag use.</p> <p>Repeal or suspend this fee and adopt policies that balance equity, transparency, and sustainability.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Sincerely, Brandon Graham</p>	https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_legislative_testimony/43666/advocating-for-the-repeal-of-the-10-cent-paper-bag-fee.pdf
2024-12-02 10:41:40	Matt	Gove	brooklyn	ny	11217	No	Annapolis Chapter	Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Oppose	<p>The Annapolis Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation opposes ordinance 92-24.</p> <p>"Bag Bills" have been passed and implemented in 100s of municipalities, counties, and states across the US over the last 15 years, providing ample data as to what works and what does not. Time and time again, it has been shown that "bag bills" which do not charge a fee on paper bags simply lead to customers switching to paper bags, instead of remembering to bring reusable bags. Paper bags have negative environmental impacts too, requiring virgin trees to be cut down and major water usage.</p> <p>That is why Anne Arundel County passed a bag bill with a fee on paper bags and it went into effect in January 2024. This has not been a big deal for customers or stores. Annapolis passed almost the same bill this year. Do we really want Annapolis and Anne Arundel County to have different bag rules? That will be confusing to customers, stores, and enforcement officers.</p> <p>The current Anne Arundel County bag bill is working fine and hasn't been a big deal for customers or stores--please leave it alone-- don't support Bill 92-24.</p>	

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2024-12-02 10:55:36	Alan	Lang	Harwood	MD	20776	Yes		Bill No. 92-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Miscellaneous Provisions – Plastic Bags Prohibited	Support	<p>I support Bill 92-24. I believe that the public should not have to pay an arbitrary price imposed by the government to use paper bags to transport their groceries. Additionally, I do not believe the grocery stores should be forced by government fiat to offer the public free reusable plastic bags at least once per year.</p> <p>The Sierra Club (SC) has issued "statistics" from unscientific, non-random samples as "evidence" to support not changing the bill. SC states that 68 percent of Laurel shoppers used store supplied paper bags until the government imposed a 10 cent per bag fee. Then usage of paper bags allegedly dropped to 32 percent. If Laurel is representative of the entire County, it would seem that the people still want to use paper bags, and would use them if not for government interference.</p> <p>The SC also uses scare tactics that claim paper bags are not reusable and that the production and transportation of paper bags will ruin the environment. The SC does not mention that paper bags can be reused for non-grocery purposes. I have seen a large number of paper bags being used to hold raked leaves for recycling purposes. I believe the County supports the use of paper bags for this purpose.</p> <p>Also, the SC does not mention that the making of plastic bags could also impact the environment since plastic is created from "evil" petroleum. Plastic bags also need to be transported by vehicles burning fossil fuels. SC does not discuss whether these reusable plastic bags are biodegradable once they are no longer usable.</p> <p>Please do not be swayed by the SC position and listen to the people who you purport to represent. Please vote yes on Bill 92-24.</p>	https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_legislative_testimony/43674/i-support-bill-92-24.docx



Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Fwd: Bag Fee

2 messages

Shannon Leadbetter <clead22@aacounty.org>
To: Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Wed, Nov 13, 2024 at 7:49 AM

Kaley can you please add this as public testimony and share it with my colleagues.

Thank You,

Shannon Leadbetter
County Councilwoman
District 7
410.222.2417

Subscribe to the District 7 Newsletter: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/dPd7mSX/d7newsletter>

Please note my aide's contact information: Jessica Ewing, jewing@aacounty.org

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Steve L** [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Nov 13, 2024 at 6:11 AM
Subject: Bag Fee
To: clead22@aacounty.org <clead22@aacounty.org>

Did the Council really think the bag fee, which they passed this year, through?. I'm an elderly (78 years old) Anne Arundel resident. Due to impaired vision and hearing, I rarely leave the house. All of my groceries are delivered by Walmart or Amazon. They will put my order in many small squat bags (1 to 3 items in each bag). These bags do not have much purpose for reuse so they go straight to the trash. As you are aware, I am charged 10 cents for each of these bags. Since my orders are delivered I cannot use my own bags. I order from Walmart 2 or even 3 times a week. The kicker is (and I don't blame Walmart) but they keep the bag fee. I am the big loser in this. At least I was able to use the plastic bags as trash liners. Now I have to buy trash liners which cost of about \$6.

I'm sure I'm not the only senior in Anne Arundel County who is faced with this issue. I don't think the bag fee law was well thought out. This results in an unfair tax to seniors who rely on delivery for their groceries. I believe the purpose of the bag fee was to encourage people to bring their own bags. Obviously, this can't be done if you are having your orders delivered. This is very unfair to the elderly and disabled.

I really think the council should review this law and exclude delivered orders from the bag fee. It really serves no purpose since the consumer has no option to use their own bag. I guess the retailers are the big winners since they keep the bag fee.

Was this concern even considered when this bill was passed? If you disagree with me, I would like to hear your reasoning.

Steve Lalekos
Anne Arundel County Resident

Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>
To: Shannon Leadbetter <cplead22@aacounty.org>

Wed, Nov 13, 2024 at 8:20 AM

I'll share it today. Thanks, Shannon.

Kaley
[Quoted text hidden]

Shannon Leadbetter

Ann Arundel County Council Person

District 7

December 2, 2024

Dear Mrs. Leadbetter;

Last week on Black Friday I walked out of the Annapolis Mall carrying store bags with my purchases in them. Streaming out of the mall around me were people carrying in their arms stacks of clothing, linens, household goods and other items, most stacks with a simple receipt on top of their items. I wondered how many of these items were shoplifted. Theft from stores is a problem. I know that grocery stores in Edgewater have closed entrances so that they can better monitor shoplifting. I know that Home Depot employees will describe with disgust how people walk out without paying for large items. I was at the mall the first day the plastic bag ban & government mandated 10 cents a paper bag price went into effect and saw the stacks of clothing being carried out of the mall, bagless, then. I discussed with the cashier that day how the changes would affect store security and increase shoplifting.

Will the mall stores, eager to comply with the mandates of a society that cancels people and businesses for “wrong think,” admit that they are losing more merchandise due to the new must-buy-a-bag mandate? I doubt it. I think the cost of more theft will just be passed on to the consumer.

The 10 cents a bag mandate also hurts our small businesses. A nice paper bag with the stores name on it is some of the best advertising a small business can have. Nice paper bags with an attractive logo are used again and again and bring the business’s name into other homes and businesses in the community. As Council members know, many people will not pay the 10 cents for a bag, so the government mandated 10 cents a bag price actually deprives local businesses of cost-effective advertising.

So, to reiterate:

- Allowing people to walk out of stores with unbagged items promotes theft.
- Discouraging the use of paper bags deprives local small businesses of some of their best advertising in the community.

I haven’t heard much complaining about the ban on plastic bags in our county. I certainly don’t have a problem with that. And people are now bringing their own tote bags to grocery stores, as many did before the pandemic made customer owned shopping bags bad and forbidden. It’s time to drop the ten cent a paper bag mandate in Anne Arundel County.

Sincerely,

Ellen Foy

Harwood Resident



Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

Fwd: Papper bag Fee

1 message

Jessica Ewing <jewing@aacounty.org>

Mon, Dec 2, 2024 at 3:58 PM

To: Shannon Leadbetter <sleadbetter@aacounty.org>, Kaley Schultze <ccschu24@aacounty.org>

If you can share with the council. Sorry!

Jess

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Michael M** <[REDACTED]>

Date: Mon, Dec 2, 2024 at 3:09 PM

Subject: Papper bag Fee

To: Jessica Ewing <jewing@aacounty.org>

Please vote to remove the Paper Bag fee we must pay as it is only another tax on our residents! Our Maryland politicians "Never Met A Tax They Didn't Like!

Thank You
Michael Mattia
District 7 Resident