

CONSIDERATION OF THE INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 5.80 OF THE MANHATTAN BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO PLASTIC CARRYOUT BAGS

March 3, 2026



INTRODUCTION

- Consideration and introduction of Ordinance No. 26-0004
- Amend MBMC, to maintain consistency with state law:
 - Prohibit all plastic carryout bags
 - Permit only recycled paper bags
- No fiscal implications



BACKGROUND

- Plastic bag prohibition introduced in 2008
- In Los Angeles County:
 - 6 B plastic bags consumed annually
 - 600 bags per person per year
 - < 5% of plastic bags recycled
- Plastic bags are not accepted in the City's curbside recycling program



RULE 3

No loose plastic bags and no bagged recyclables



Do Not Include:

Food or Liquids, Plastic Bags or Film, Foam Containers, Clothing, Furniture or Carpet, Batteries, Electronics, Hazardous Waste, Yard Waste



BACKGROUND

July 15, 2008 – Ordinance No. 2115

- Prohibited single-use carryout plastic bags at all commercial and retail establishments
 - Retail shops
 - Grocery stores
 - Restaurants
 - Mobile food vendors



BACKGROUND

September 30, 2014

Senate Bill 270

- Prohibits single-use plastic carryout bags statewide
- Allowed reusable plastic bags
 - Generally not reused by consumers
 - Caused increased plastic waste



BACKGROUND

September 22, 2024 – Senate Bill 1053

- Prohibits single-use and reusable plastic carryout bags
- Permits the use of recycled paper bags only
- Effective January 1, 2026



MBMC AMENDMENTS - DEFINITIONS

Definitions

- Add “carryout bag”
- Add “post-consumer recycled content”
- Add “precheckout bag”
- Add “recycled paper bag”
- Update “recyclable paper bag”



MBMC AMENDMENTS - DEFINITIONS

New: “Carryout bag”

- Provided to a customer at the point of sale
- For the purpose of carrying away goods
- Excludes precheckout bags



MBMC AMENDMENTS - DEFINITIONS

New: “Precheckout bag”

- A bag provided to a customer:
 - Before the point of sale;
 - To protect other purchased items from damage or contamination; OR
 - To contain an unwrapped food item
- Produce bags, pharmacy bags, garment bags, bags use to wrap fresh or raw meat, poultry, or fish



MBMC AMENDMENTS - DEFINITIONS

New: “Post-consumer recycled content”

- Material that would otherwise be disposed of
- Completed its intended use by the consumer
- Does not include byproducts or materials from the manufacturing process



Used product



Recycled



Made into new product



MBMC AMENDMENTS - DEFINITIONS

Update: “Recyclable paper bag”

- Update for clarity

New: “Recycled paper bag”

- Post-consumer recycled content requirement
 - Aligned with State requirements
 - 40% through 2027
 - 50% after January 1, 2028



MBMC AMENDMENTS

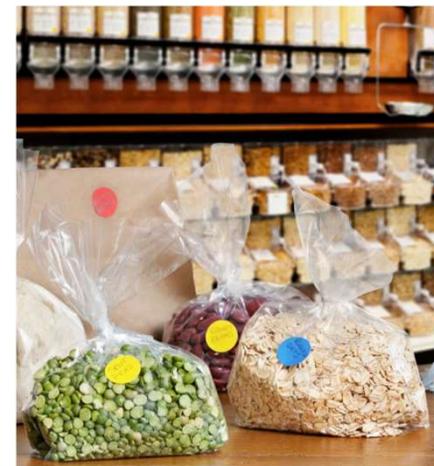
- Prohibit distribution of all plastic carryout bags
 - Single-use plastic
 - Reusable plastic
 - Biodegradable or compostable plastic
- Mandate that a carryout bag provided at the point-of-sale is a recycled paper bag



MBMC AMENDMENTS

Clarification that these requirements shall **not** apply to:

- Bags provided by a pharmacy with the purchase of medication
- Precheckout bags
- Garment bags designed to be placed over articles of clothing on a hanger



MBMC AMENDMENTS

- City's current prohibition of single-use bags extends to restaurants
- State law excludes restaurants from the paper bag requirements
- Other cities that regulate restaurants:
 - San Francisco, Malibu, Palo Alto



POLICY ALTERNATIVES

- Two versions of draft ordinance for consideration
 - Version A: maintains definition of “vendor” as it applies to restaurants and mobile food vendors
 - Version B: revises definition of “vendor” to exclude restaurants and mobile food vendors
 - Version B would allow restaurants and mobile food vendors to use carryout plastic bags



POLICY ALTERNATIVE 1

Introduce Ordinance Version A

- Applies recommended amendments to all entities currently subject to plastic carryout bag regulations
- Prohibits restaurants and mobile food vendors from distributing plastic carryout bags



POLICY ALTERNATIVE 1

Ordinance Version A

PROS:

- Continued decrease in single-use waste and plastic pollution
- Paper has less environmental impact than plastic
- Paper is accepted in recycling and organics programs

CONS:

- Limits carryout bag options for restaurants and mobile food vendors
- Potential increase in costs for restaurants and mobile food vendors



POLICY ALTERNATIVE 2

Introduce Ordinance Version B

- Redefines “vendor” to exclude restaurants and mobile food providers from all carryout bag requirements
- Allows restaurants and mobile food vendors to use plastic or paper carryout bags

"Vendor" means any store, shop, ~~restaurant,~~ sales outlet, ~~mobile food vendor,~~ pushcart, or other commercial establishment located within or doing business within the City of Manhattan Beach, which provides perishable or nonperishable goods.



POLICY ALTERNATIVE 2

Ordinance Version B

PROS:

- Potential cost savings
- Reduces likelihood of damage to goods caused by torn paper bags

CONS:

- Continued increase in single-use waste and plastic pollution
- Plastic has more environmental impact than paper
- Does not hold restaurants and mobile food vendors to same standards as other businesses



PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Chamber of Commerce
- North Manhattan Beach Business Association
- Downtown Manhattan Beach Business and Professional Association



RECOMMENDATION

- A) Consider recommended options for MBMC Title 5 amendments
- B) Introduce Ordinance No. 26-0004



