

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2008 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-83-2008

Proposed by Council Member Harrison

Introduced by Council Members Harrison, Olson, Exum, Bland, Dean, Turner and Knotts

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction September 23, 2008

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Reduction of the Use of Plastic Shopping Bags

3 For the purpose of expressing the Prince George's County Council support for the reduced use of
4 non-biodegradable plastic shopping bags by retailers and grocery stores by encouraging
5 recycling and the availability and use of re-usable bags by the businesses and citizens of Prince
6 George's County.

7 WHEREAS, Prince George's County has a duty and obligation to protect the natural
8 environment, the economy and the health of its citizens and has undertaken policy initiatives to
9 fulfill its responsibilities; and

10 WHEREAS, nationwide, according to the plastic industry estimates, grocery stores and
11 pharmacies go through about 92 billion plastic bags a year and only 5 to 10% are recycled,
12 according to national estimates; and

13 WHEREAS, non-biodegradable plastic shopping bags have a significant environmental
14 impacts, including the use of over 12 million barrels of oil for manufacturing of bags in the
15 United States; and

16 WHEREAS, non-biodegradable plastic shopping bags are difficult to recycle and
17 contaminate materials that are processed through the County's curbside and recycling program;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, non-biodegradable plastic shopping bags create a significant litter problem
20 and can be unsightly in Prince George's County's neighborhoods and communities, if not
21 recycled or properly disposed of; and

22 WHEREAS, several Countries, States and Cities have enacted or considered laws and

1 policies to ban, reduce and/or recycle non-biodegradable plastic bags, including China, Israel,
2 Ireland, Canada, Hong Kong, Melbourne, Australia, and the cities of San Francisco, Los
3 Angeles, Oakland and Phoenix; and

4 WHEREAS, in Maryland, the General Assembly and City of Annapolis have considered
5 legislation to regulate the use of non-biodegradable plastic shopping bags and to encourage the
6 use of paper or re-usable bags; and

7 WHEREAS, several retailers and grocery stores have undertaken voluntary recycling
8 programs or have announced plans to eliminate or reduce the amount of use of non-
9 biodegradable plastic bags; and

10 WHEREAS, Prince George’s County Council believes that the reduction in the use of non-
11 biodegradable plastic bags and the use of re-usable cloth or biodegradable bags by the County’s
12 businesses and citizens will assist in the County meeting its obligation to protect the County’s
13 environment.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
15 County, Maryland, that it supports the reduced use of non-biodegradable plastic shopping bags
16 by retailers and grocery stores, encourages the recycling of plastic bags and the availability and
17 use of re-usable bags by the businesses and citizens of Prince George’s County.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County undertakes a public education campaign to
19 encourage retailers to offer and citizens to use re-usable bags.

Adopted this 28th day of October, 2008.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Samuel H. Dean
Chairman

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council