



# CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

8400 BALTIMORE AVENUE SUITE 375 COLLEGE PARK MD 20740 | COLLEGE PARKMD.GOV

## MAYOR

Patrick L. Wojahn

pwojahn@collegetparkmd.gov  
240.988.7763

## DISTRICT 1

Fazlul Kabir

fkabir@collegetparkmd.gov  
301.659.6295

Kate Kennedy

kkennedy@collegetparkmd.gov  
202.400.1501

## DISTRICT 2

P.J. Brennan

pbrennan@collegetparkmd.gov  
202.288.5569

Monroe S. Dennis

mdennis@collegetparkmd.gov  
301.474.6270

## DISTRICT 3

Robert W. Day

rday@collegetparkmd.gov  
301.741.1962

John B. Rigg

jrigg@collegetparkmd.gov  
443.646.3503

## DISTRICT 4

Maria E. Mackie

mmackie@collegetparkmd.gov  
240.472.0681

Denise Mitchell

dmitchell@collegetparkmd.gov  
301.852.8126

February 10, 2020

Delegate Kumar Barve  
Chair, Environment and Transportation  
Room 251, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

### Re: House Bill 209 Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act

Dear Chair Barve and Committee Members:

The City Council voted on February 4, 2020 to support HB 209, a bill prohibiting stores from distributing plastic carryout bags to customers and requiring stores to charge at least 10 cents for paper and other carryout bags. The bill would also create a Single-Use Products Workgroup to recommend further actions to reduce plastic and single-use products waste in Maryland. Similar legislation elsewhere has been highly effective in changing shopper behavior in favor of reusable bags or no bag at all.

Fewer than 5% of plastic bags are recycled. They are not accepted in curbside recycling programs because they foul the machinery and are too contaminated to be marketed. Most enter the environment by way of landfills, incinerators, or as litter.

The enormous environmental impact of plastic waste is well-documented. Each year millions of tons of plastic are dumped into the world's oceans. Littered plastic bags blow or wash into waterways and the oceans, where they are ingested by marine life, injuring or killing fish, seabirds, and marine animals.

Seven states and nearly 500 localities in the U.S. have adopted laws to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags. On behalf of the City Council and our residents, I respectfully request that you support HB 209 to better protect the planet from plastic pollution.

Sincerely,

Patrick L. Wojahn  
Mayor

cc: Maryland 21<sup>st</sup> District Delegation