

CITY COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF FERNANDINA BEACH

SUBJECT: Resolution 2015-56
Supporting Florida Senate Bill 966 and House Bill 661 – Regulation or Ban of
Disposable Plastic Bags

DEPARTMENT: City Commission

ATTACHMENTS: Ordinance Resolution
 Support Documents Other

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Resolution 2015-56

SUMMARY: Plastic bags are detrimental because they do not fully degrade in our oceans or land environment and they introduce unsafe chemicals into our environment. Furthermore, single-use plastic bags are difficult to recycle and frequently contaminate material that is processed through the City's curbside recycling programs. The Commission acknowledges that some businesses have taken affirmative steps to accomplish this goal and recognizes their proactive efforts; therefore, it is in the public interest for the Florida Legislature to provide statewide deregulation of the proliferation of single-use shopping bags.

City staff has received notice that the Florida Legislature is considering SB 966, and HB 661, which would allow certain municipalities to establish by Ordinance a pilot program to regulate or ban disposable plastic bags, so long as such Ordinance does not include any new taxes or fees on the use or distribution of disposable plastic bags.

This item is placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioner Miller.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS: No Additional Comments.

DEPARTMENT HEAD	Submitted by: Joe Gerrity City Manager	Date: 3/16/15
	Requested Agenda	Date: 3/17/15
FINANCE DEPARTMENT	Approved as to Budget Requirements	Date:
CITY ATTORNEY	Approved as to Form and Legality	Date: 3/16/15
CITY MANAGER	Approved Agenda Item for 3/17/15	Date: 3/16/15

COMMISSION ACTION: Approved As Recommended Disapproved
 Approved With Modification Postponed to Time Certain
 Other Tabled

RESOLUTION 2015-56

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FERNANDINA BEACH, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING FLORIDA SENATE BILL 966 AND HOUSE BILL 661, WHICH, IF PASSED, WOULD ALLOW CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES TO ESTABLISH PILOT PROGRAMS FOR THE REGULATION OR BAN OF DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BAGS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Fernandina Beach is diligent in its efforts to preserve the beautiful environment that supports the tourism industry which is so vital to the economy of the City, Nassau County, and the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, plastic bags are detrimental because they do not fully degrade in our oceans or land environment and they introduce unsafe chemicals into our environment; and

WHEREAS, the expansive usage of single-use shopping bags and their typical disposal rates creates an impediment to the City's waste reduction and recycling goals while creating unsightly litter; and

WHEREAS, single-use plastic bags are difficult to recycle and frequently contaminate material that is processed through the City's curbside recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, reusable bags are considered to be the best option to reduce waste and litter, protect wildlife and conserve resources; and

WHEREAS, the Commission acknowledges that some businesses have taken affirmative steps to accomplish this goal and recognizes their proactive efforts; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the Florida Legislature to provide statewide deregulation of the proliferation of single-use shopping bags; and

WHEREAS, City staff has received notice that the Florida Legislature is considering SB 966, and HB 661, which would allow certain municipalities to establish by Ordinance a pilot program to regulate or ban disposable plastic bags, so long as such Ordinance does not include any new taxes or fees on the use or distribution of disposable plastic bags; and

WHEREAS, the Fernandina Beach City Commission is concerned about the environmental impact of disposable bags on the environment, and finds that state government will gain access to valuable data upon which more effective legislation can be based, if certain municipalities provide regular reports, in conformance with SB 966 and HB 661, to the public, and to FDEP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FERNANDINA BEACH, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. The City Commission supports HB 966 and SB 611 and urges legislators to support such measures.

Section 2. The City Clerk is hereby authorized to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to our State Senator, Aaron Bean.

Section 3. That this Resolution shall go into effect immediately upon its passage.

ADOPTED this 17th day of March, 2015.

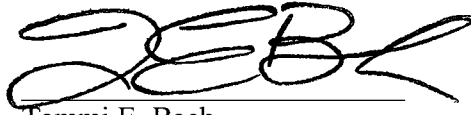
ATTEST:

CITY OF FERNANDINA BEACH

Caroline Best
City Clerk

Edward E. Boner
Commissioner-Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TEB', written over a horizontal line.

Tammi E. Bach
City Attorney