

**THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE, CHAPTER 294, SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING, BY THE ADDITION OF SECTIONS PROHIBITING THE USE OF PLASTIC CARRY-OUT BAGS BY RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS AND PROMOTING THE USE OF REUSABLE BAGS.**

**WHEREAS**, disposable plastic bags are briefly used, but are non-degradable and remain in the environment for decades without breakdown to organic material; and

**WHEREAS**, disposable plastic bags present a variety of environmental and public health hazards, including the pollution of waterways where some 346 marine species are adversely affected; and

**WHEREAS**, firms that process material to be recycled no longer accept disposable plastic bags, and

**WHEREAS**, the legislature of the state of New Jersey, as of the date hereof, has failed to address the need to prohibit the use of disposable plastic bags for carry-out purposes from retail establishments.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it ordained, by the Board of Trustees of the Township of South Orange Village, a municipal corporation of New Jersey located in Essex County thereof, that Chapter 294 of the Code of the Township of South Orange Village, Solid Waste and Recycling, be amended as follows:

**Section 1.**

Chapter 294, Section 1 is hereby amended to add the following definitions:

**Definitions.**

**CARRY-OUT BAGS** – Bags that are provided by retail establishments to customers, at points of sale, to carry and/or transport purchased items.

**COMPLIANT CARRY-OUT BAGS** — The following bags are compliant carry-out bags:

- A. Paper bags.
- B. Reusable bags made of cloth or other washable material, with stitched handles that are specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse. A bag is suitable for multiple reuse if it is machine-washable or is made from a material that can be otherwise cleaned and disinfected.

**CUSTOMER** — Any person purchasing goods from a retail establishment.

**OPERATOR** — Persons in control of, or having the responsibility for the operation of a retail establishment.

PERSON — A natural person corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other form of business entity.

POINT OF SALE – The location where a retail establishment relinquishes legal possession of purchased goods to a customer, regardless of where and how payment for such goods is made.

RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT — Any store or commercial establishment that sells products, perishable or otherwise, directly to customers. Retail establishments include, but are not limited to, drug stores, pharmacies, supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores, restaurants, fast food establishments, clothing stores and hardware stores.

## **Section 2.**

Chapter 294 is amended by the addition of the following new Sections 294-9 through 294-12:

### **Section 294-9, Plastic carry-out bags prohibited.**

Retail establishments shall not provide customers with plastic carry-out bags. Retail Establishments shall only provide customers with compliant carry-out bags. Nothing contained herein shall prohibit the use of plastic bags, at locations other than points of sale, for purposes that include but are not limited to the following:

- A. Package bulk items, such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, candies, or small hardware items;
- B. Contain or wrap frozen foods, meat, or fish, whether packaged or not;
- C. Contain or wrap flowers, potted plants, or other items where dampness may be an issue;
- D. Contain unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods; or  
Pharmacy prescription bags.

### **Section 294-10, Availability and use of compliant carry-out bags.**

- A. At points of sale all retail establishments shall make available to customers, for a fee, compliant carry-out bags. The fee charged shall be reflected in the sales receipt.
- B. Nothing in this Chapter shall prohibit customers from using bags of any type that they choose to carry purchased goods from retail establishments, or from carrying goods without the use of a bag.

### **Section 294-11, Fees for provision of compliant carry-out bags.**

- A. All retail establishments shall make paper compliant carry-out bags available to customers, for a fee of at least \$0.10. Such fees may not be charged if a customer brings a bag of its own choice to the point of sale, or to person using the New Jersey State Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, EBT, or New Jersey State Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, or senior citizens (65 years or older) with proof of age.
- B. A retail establishment may provide customers with reusable bags for such sums, or gratis, as it may choose.
- C. A retail establishment may choose, in its discretion, to provide a credit to customers that choose to bring their own bags

D. Retail establishments shall retain all fees collected pursuant to this Section.

**Section 294-12. Enforcement; violations and penalties.**

Any employee of the Township of South Orange Village who is authorized to enforce building and fire codes or Board of Health requirements is authorized to enforce violations of this Chapter.

A. Any retail establishment and/or operator that fails to comply with any of the requirements of this chapter after an initial written warning notice has been issued, shall be subject to the issuance of a Municipal Court complaint and the imposition of a fine as set forth below:

- (1) First offense \$100;
- (2) Second offense \$200;
- (3) Third and subsequent offenses \$500.

B. A fine shall be imposed for each day a violation occurs or is allowed to continue.

**Section 3.**

Repealer.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

**Section 4.**

This Ordinance shall take effect six months after final passage and publication as required by law.

**Section 5.**

On passage this ordinance shall be codified.