

The Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (MC-FACS) comprised of representatives from more than 50 faith communities in the county, is deeply concerned about the public health and safety of Montgomery County workers and residents in the wake of the COVID19 pandemic. In this regard, we strongly support the Resolution to adopt the Board of Health Regulation concerning the use of face coverings and other social distancing measures. Such health and safety measures, recommended by both the CDC and the County Department of Public Health, see for example --

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/04/12/832269202/no-you-dont-need-to-disinfect-your-groceries-but-here-s-to-shop-safely>

, are the best approach to deter the spread of the virus. Suspending or disincentivizing the use of reusable bags is a step in the wrong direction at the wrong time. Single-use plastic bags pollute our air, choke our marine life and trash our roads, sidewalks and shores. Especially now, when clean air and clean paths are one of the few pleasures people can enjoy, it would be an especially inappropriate time to roll-back the council's previous constraints on single use bags.

With all due respect,

Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions