



January 14, 2025

ZTA 24-24, Taxation – Paper Carryout Bags and Prohibition on Plastic Carryout Bags (Public Hearing)

Dear Councilmembers,

Conservation Montgomery wholeheartedly endorses ZTA 24-24. Passing the “bring your own bag” (BYOB) bill will greatly benefit our environment.

For too long plastic bag waste has polluted our land, streams, lakes, rivers and oceans to the detriment of wildlife and human health. The breakdown products called micro-plastics are well known environmental contaminants. The least we can do is stop our contribution to this waste stream and start to reduce and eliminate other sources of plastic pollution.

We support increasing the charge for paper shopping bags. This will encourage shoppers to bring their own reusable bags and to reduce the number of trees cut down and processed in paper mills. Other benefits of BYOB will be a reduction of plastic waste burned in the county’s incinerator. This is one small step toward reducing our waste stream in an effort to close the incinerator once and for all.

We also endorse the testimony of the Stormwater Partners Network to close potential loopholes in ZTA 24-24 to ensure maximum effectiveness of the plastic bag ban.

There are many alternatives to single-use plastic bags available to the consumer. We suggest that the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection help educate the public on the pros and cons of each reusable bag option.

As a result of enacting BYOB, our streets, parks, urban areas and waterways will see a marked reduction in paper and plastic bag litter. Thank you for taking a small but significant step for a cleaner and healthier environment. Please support this sensible bill.

Thank you,

John Parrish, Advocacy Committee Chair

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