

MAYOR'S EMERGENCY DIRECTIVE
Carryout Bags

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, the Governor of the State of Washington declared a State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 outbreak in Washington State, which proclamation was amended by the Governor on March 23, 2020 and again on March 24, 2020. The COVID-19 disease is caused by a virus that spreads easily from person to person which may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the rapidly spreading COVID-19 a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the Mayor of the City of Bremerton executed a Proclamation of Emergency allowing for the utilization of emergency powers to respond to said emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a Proclamation declaring a national emergency concerning the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Washington has issued additional proclamations to date in response to this emergency. On March 23, 2020, the Governor issued Proclamation 20-25 imposing a "Stay Home – Stay Healthy Order" throughout the state. This Order prohibits "all people in Washington State from leaving their homes or participating in social, spiritual and recreational gatherings of any kind regardless of the number of participants, and all non-essential businesses in Washington State from conducting business, within the limitations provided..."; and

WHEREAS, the Stay Home-Stay Healthy Order classified as an essential activity "obtaining necessary supplies and services for family or household members and pets, such as groceries, food and supplies for household consumption and use, supplies and equipment needed to work from home, and products necessary to maintain safety, sanitation and essential maintenance of the home or residence"; and

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2019, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 5368 to address the environmental impacts of single-use plastic carryout bags by prohibiting single-use plastic carryout bags and requiring many retailers to provide recycled paper carryout bags for a fee; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 5368 took effect on January 1, 2020, and was codified in Chapter 6.20 of the Bremerton Municipal Code ("BMC") entitled "Carryout Bags"; and

WHEREAS, with the outbreak of COVID-19, grocer's associations have lodged concerns regarding the potential contamination of reusable carryout bags and the spread to grocery store staff, patrons and/or surfaces; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor finds that it is in the best interest of the public health and welfare, including the health of those employed in the retail industry, to temporarily suspend the regulations of Chapter 6.20 BMC which prohibits the use of single-use plastic carryout bags and requires a \$0.08 charge for a recycled paper carryout bag, as well as other regulations, NOW THEREFORE;

BASED ON THE AUTHORITY GRANTED PURSUANT TO THE MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY, THE MAYOR ISSUES THIS EMERGENCY DIRECTIVE AS FOLLOWS;

- 1) The enforcement of Chapter 6.20 BMC is hereby temporarily suspended.
- 2) This directive shall take effect immediately upon execution and remain in effect until the Mayor takes action terminating this directive or declaring the end of the emergency at which time this directive shall be effectively and automatically repealed, unless otherwise provided.

This EMERGENCY DIRECTIVE is executed this 27th day of March, 2020.



GREG WHEELER, MAYOR