



# Staff Report

## City of Manhattan Beach

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Montgomery and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** Richard Thompson, Interim City Manager

**FROM:** Sona Kalapura, Environmental Programs Manager

**DATE:** December 7, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of a Resolution to Approve the City's Annual Endorsement of the "Day Without a Bag" Campaign

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve and adopt Resolution NO. 6288 in order to endorse the City's participation in the annual "Day Without a Bag" campaign organized by Heal the Bay.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATION:**

Fiscal implications associated with the recommended action include local advertising of the campaign as well as distribution of the City's reusable canvas bags, where feasible, to residents who participate in any Heal the Bay campaign activities held in Manhattan Beach on December 16, 2010.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The City of Manhattan Beach and its residents are concerned about the impacts of plastic bags on our coastal community. Los Angeles County residents use an estimated six billion plastic bags per year, which is equivalent to 600 plastic bags per person per year. However, only 5 percent of these bags are recycled, with a vast majority of them ending up in landfills, as litter in our neighborhoods, and in the ocean.

The City and its residents have shown a commitment to finding solutions to the problem of single use plastic bags through the adoption of a plastic bag ordinance banning the use of plastic bags at all retailers and restaurants in the City. The City faced a lawsuit from the Save the Plastic Bag Coalition, and the ban was placed on hold pending a legal appeals process. Depending on the outcome of the case, the City will be able to partner with the County of Los Angeles if needed, and utilize its Environmental Impact Report to show that the ban on plastic bags will indeed have a positive impact on the environment. In the meantime, the City is continuing its public outreach campaign to encourage the use of reusable bags to its residents.

**DISCUSSION:**

The City has previously endorsed Heal the Bay's annual "Day Without a Bag" program, and with City Council's approval, plans to do so annually on the third Thursday in December. To support this reusable bag movement, the City can host bag giveaways at the Civic Center and local grocery stores. The City can also advertise the campaign in local newspapers and electronic notices to residents.

This year, Heal the Bay has partnered with the Roundhouse Aquarium to distribute reusable bags from 2:00 – 5:00 PM on Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> to commemorate this fourth annual Day Without a Bag. By supporting Heal the Bay's efforts to increase plastic bag recycling, and encouraging communitywide participation in the use of reusable bags, the City of Manhattan Beach will provide its residents with the opportunity to take action in protecting our environment.

**CONCLUSION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution NO. 6288 to declare support for Heal the Bay's annual Day Without a Bag campaign.

Attachments: A. Resolution 6288

RESOLUTION NO. 6288

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, RECOGNIZING THE THIRD THURSDAY OF DECEMBER AS A DAY WITHOUT A BAG THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH

WHEREAS, December 16, 2010 marks the fourth annual "A Day Without A Bag" educational event coordinated by Heal the Bay; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of this event is to raise community awareness about the ecological benefits of using reusable bags versus paper or plastic and to encourage shoppers to adopt more sustainable practices during the holidays and the coming year; and,

WHEREAS, each year, approximately 6 billion plastic carryout bags are used in Los Angeles County; and,

WHEREAS, in the United States, less than 5 percent of plastic bags are recycled; and,

WHEREAS, each year, the State of California spends approximately \$25 million to landfill discarded plastic bags; and,

WHEREAS, plastic bags are lightweight and easily caught in the wind and make up a significant amount of the litter found in storm drains that lead directly to the beach and ocean; and,

WHEREAS, plastic bags do not biodegrade and therefore pose a threat to marine animals, contribute to the overall amount of plastic debris in the ocean, and contribute to the litter that blights the beach and other public spaces; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Manhattan Beach has set solid waste reduction and recycling goals, and has shown leadership in taking action against the unchecked proliferation of plastic bags; and,

WHEREAS, paper bags, while biodegradable, contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation and water pollution from the production process; and,

WHEREAS, reusable bags contribute towards environmental sustainability over single-use plastic and paper single-use bags; and,

WHEREAS, Manhattan Beach, as a coastal city, is acutely aware of the benefits of using reusable bags, has been proactive in promoting a local reusable bag awareness campaign, and is in full support of Heal the Bay's efforts to urge shoppers to forego single-use plastic and paper bags in favor of reusable tote bags to recognize A Day Without A Bag.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH HEREBY RECOGNIZES THE THIRD THURSDAY OF DECEMBER AS THE ANNUAL "DAY WITHOUT A BAG" IN MANHATTAN BEACH.

SECTION 1. The City Clerk shall make this Resolution reasonably available for public inspection within thirty (30) days of the date this Resolution is adopted.

SECTION 2. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution and thenceforth and thereafter the same shall be in full force and effect.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 7th day of December, 2010.

Ayes:  
Noes:  
Absent:  
Abstain:

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Mayor, City of Manhattan Beach, California

ATTEST:

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City Clerk