



CITY OF PORTLAND  
Executive Department  
Jon P. Jennings, City Manager

## PROCLAMATION REGARDING THE CITY OF PORTLAND'S SINGLE USE REUSABLE BAG FEE

**WHEREAS**, there is currently an outbreak of novel coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19"), a respiratory illness, first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, and it continues to expand to a growing number of international locations, including the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 has risen steadily in the past weeks in the City of Portland and State of Maine; and

**WHEREAS**, based on current research and understanding, COVID-19 can survive on various surfaces for hours and in some cases days; and

**WHEREAS**, the risk of community spread throughout Portland impacts the life, health and safety of the public and public health is imperiled by the person-to-person spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result, the City recommends that all Portlanders not bring or use their reusable bags to any store within the City of Portland; and

**WHEREAS**, the City further recommends that stores make single-use carry out bags readily available to their customers in order to reduce the likelihood of transmission of COVID-19; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority vested in me pursuant to Chapter 12, section 12-233, I, Jon P. Jennings, City Manager for the City of Portland, do hereby declare as follows:

1. An emergency exists that requires immediate action in order to preserve the public health, welfare and/or safety. As a result of this emergency, every store currently subject to the single-use carry-out bag provisions of the City's Waste Reduction Ordinance (Chapter 12, Article IX) are hereby exempt from those requirements from **March 20, 2020** until **April 30, 2020**. No store in the City of Portland must, therefore, charge the five-cent fee for single use carry out bags until the expiration of this proclamation.

Dated: Friday, March 20, 2020

  
Jon P. Jennings, City Manager

