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

[Signature]

[Stamp: Notary Public]

[Stamp: Commission Expires May 16, 2024]