



NAN BALMER  
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR  
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# TOWN OF WAYLAND

41 COCHITUATE ROAD  
WAYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS 01778

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

LEA T. ANDERSON  
MARY M. ANTES  
LOUIS M. JURIST  
CHERRY C. KARLSON  
DOUGLAS A. LEVINE

August 7, 2017

### **RE: PLASTIC CHECKOUT BAG REDUCTION BYLAW IN WAYLAND**

Dear Wayland Business Owner or Manager,

On April 3, 2017, the Town of Wayland adopted a bylaw that bans the use of thin film plastic checkout bags that are less than 4.0 Mils in thickness. These plastic bags are commonly offered by retail stores and restaurants. In the unlikely case that you offer thick plastic bags, please check the packaging or ask your supplier about the thickness. The full text of the bylaw is enclosed and is online at [http://www.wayland.ma.us/Pages/WaylandMA\\_Selectmen/plastic/plastic.pdf](http://www.wayland.ma.us/Pages/WaylandMA_Selectmen/plastic/plastic.pdf). The bylaw applies only to plastic checkout bags. Other uses of plastic bags are not affected, such as bags for dry cleaning, newspapers, produce, meat, bulk foods, wet items, and similar merchandise.

The bylaw will go into effect on February 4, 2018, six months after its approval by the Massachusetts Attorney General. The formal notification of the decision of the Attorney General is posted on the Wayland Board of Selectmen website: [http://www.wayland.ma.us/Pages/WaylandMA\\_Selectmen/plastic/AGBylawApproval.pdf](http://www.wayland.ma.us/Pages/WaylandMA_Selectmen/plastic/AGBylawApproval.pdf)

The purpose of this letter is to communicate with businesses that thin film plastic checkout bags will be banned from use by retail and grocery stores and restaurants in Wayland. We want to give you as much notice as possible to make the necessary changes by the effective date. If you have difficulty meeting the deadline, the bylaw contains a hardship provision under which you can apply for a six month extension. If you need to apply for an extension, please contact the Wayland Town Administrator Nan Balmer at [nbalmer@wayland.ma.us](mailto:nbalmer@wayland.ma.us)

Once the ban is in place, thin film plastic bags will not be allowed. Penalties for non-compliance are as follows: First offense--warning: Second offense--\$50 per day: Third and each subsequent offense--\$100 per day. We look forward to a smooth transition with your establishment and appreciate your cooperation.

The Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator would greatly appreciate your taking a moment to return the enclosed Response Postcard to assist in the rollout of this ban. Thank you in advance.

The bylaw allows two alternatives to thin film plastic bags:

- Paper bags that are 100 percent recyclable and display the words "recyclable" and "made from 40% post-consumer recycled content" in a visible manner on the outside of the bag.
- Reusable checkout bags that are specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuses. These bags may be made of polyester, polypropylene, cotton, or other durable material and are washable. Reusable bags can be offered for sale and allow you to advertise your business. They also reduce your costs, are stronger than either plastic or paper, and are better for the environment as they reduce plastic pollution.
- For extra protection, meat and produce can be placed in bags designed to hold these products with either paper or reusable bags.

We appreciate your compliance with this bylaw. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Town Administrator at [nbalmer@wayland.ma.us](mailto:nbalmer@wayland.ma.us)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lea T. Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Lea Anderson  
Chair, Board of Selectmen