



**TO:** Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager  
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**COPY:** Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee  
**PRESENTER:** Leah Michaelson, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability  
Kristi Lynett, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability  
**SUBJECT:** Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance – Retailer and Customer Reporting Survey  
Results  
**DATE:** January 9, 2019

**PRESENTATION TYPE:**  
Informational Briefing

**SUMMARY:**

Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS) staff will give a presentation to the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability (IPS) Committee on the results of the Bring Your Own Bag ordinance, including retailer and customer reporting surveys that were conducted in November 2018.

**BACKGROUND:**

On July 12, 2016, the City Council passed Ordinance No. 28367, adding Section 12.09.215 Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB) to the Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) to regulate the use of disposable checkout bags in retail establishments, effective July 12, 2017. The Ordinance requires a study to evaluate the effects of the code on low-income populations and communities of color within 18 months of the Ordinance's implementation. In addition, the Ordinance requires an annual voluntary survey regarding the impacts of the code on retail establishments, including the challenges of implementation, improvements that could be made, and impacts to customer experiences.

In November 2018, OEPS conducted a survey of retail establishments regarding the impact of TMC 12.09.215 on any challenges of implementation, customer impact, improvements that could be made, and paper bags sold. The survey was sent via mail and online web link.

Community-focused surveying was also conducted between November 13-16, 2018, in an effort to evaluate the impacts of the Ordinance on low-income populations and communities of color. This paper survey was conducted directly with community members via grocery store tabling at four locations.

**ISSUE:**

This is an information briefing only. There are no issues presented.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

OEPS recommends that the City continues enforcement of TMC 12.09.215 with no changes.