



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager

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COPY: Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee; Kurtis Kingsolver;
Claire Goodwin

PRESENTER: Jim Parvey and Leah Michaelson, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability

SUBJECT: Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance Update

DATE: February 5, 2020

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Information briefing

SUMMARY:

City of Tacoma staff will present the 2019 annual report on the current status of the Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance that went into effect on July 12, 2017. The presentation will inform the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee of the City's efforts to evaluate the impacts of the ordinance on retail establishments and customer experiences. Staff will also report on the estimated annual and cumulative percentage change in the number of recycled paper carryout bags distributed from 2018-2019. This presentation is for information only, no actions will be requested.

BACKGROUND:

The Tacoma City Council approved the Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance, Ordinance No. 28367 on July 12, 2016. Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS) staff recently conducted the second of three annual surveys required by the ordinance. The 2018 report detailed that a reported 2,706,782 bags were distributed between August 1, 2017 and July 31, 2018. For both the 2018 and 2019 reports, about 1,800 Tacoma retailers received the voluntary survey via mail and optional web link. In 2018, OEPS received 353 responses for a 19.6 percent response rate. 12 complaints were received through Tacoma FIRST 311 regarding the ordinance between January 2018 and November 2018. The 2019 report will outline the latest survey data regarding paper bags distributed between August 1, 2018 and July 31, 2019.

ISSUE:

This is an information briefing only.

ALTERNATIVES:

There are no alternatives presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact expected at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

There is no recommendation.