



**Mar Vista
Community Council**

P.O. Box 66871
Mar Vista, CA 90066

**Board of Directors
2011-2012**

Chair

Sharon Commins
smcommins@marvista.org

1st Vice Chair

Bill Koontz
billk@marvista.org

2nd Vice Chair

Chuck Ray
chuck@marvista.org

Secretary

Michael Millman
michael@marvista.org

Treasurer

Bill Scheduling
wls@marvista.org

Zone Directors

Zone 1

Babak Nahid

Zone 2

Bill Koontz

Zone 3

Kate Anderson

Zone 4

Michael Millman

Zone 5

Maritza Przekop

Zone 6

Marilyn Marble

At-Large Directors

Sharon Commins
Bill Duckett
Geoffrey Forgione
Yvette Molinaro
Chuck Ray
Bill Scheduling

Community Director

Alex Thompson



Certified Neighborhood Council
August 13, 2002

August 20, 2012

Via Email to:

**The Honorable Bill Rosendahl, Councilmember
11th District, City of Los Angeles**

councilman.rosendahl@lacity.org

**The Honorable Paul Koretz, Councilmember,
5th District, City of Los Angeles**

paul.koretz@lacity.org

Re: Council File 11-1531-S3, Plastic bag charge

At its regular meeting, August 14, 2012, the Mar Vista Community Council approved the following policy motion:

The Mar Vista Community Council, representing 55,000 stakeholders in Los Angeles, strongly opposes the above-referenced motion introduced by Councilmember Parks on the grounds that the motion is based upon questionable studies sponsored by the plastics industry and, that, by attempting to direct the 10 cent charge on paper bags, the City would be exposed to costly litigation.

Reusable grocery bags have been used for decades in the United States and elsewhere without reported health impacts. In the 49 jurisdictions in California alone that have adopted similar ordinances encouraging the use of reusable bags, there have been, again, no reported health impacts. Consumers walk into grocery stores every day without washing their hands, pick up food items and place them on the same counters and conveyor belts. Also, studies have shown that cashiers are exposed to bacteria from handling money.

The appropriate hygienic use of reusable bags is a matter of basic good hygiene practices as outlined by the CDC in their outreach and it is worth noting that nowhere does the CDC cite reusable bags as a risk factor

<http://www.cdc.gov/VitalSigns/FoodSafety/> as noted when the studies by the University of Arizona and Loma Linda University were refuted by Consumer Reports in a July 22, 2010, article (<http://news.consumerreports.org/safety/2010/07/can-reusable-grocery-bags-make-you-sick-or-is-that-just-baloney.html>).

In addition, attempts to direct the 10 cent charge on paper bags could expose the City to costly litigation.

Kind regards,

**Sharon Commins, Chair
Mar Vista Community Council**