

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM

Report Title: Holding the Bag
Report Date: May 1, 2013
Public Release Date: May 7, 2013
Response By: Mary Neilan, City Manager

FINDINGS

- We agree with the findings numbered: F1, F2, F3 and F4.
- We disagree with wholly or partially with the findings numbered: NONE.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered: NONE have been implemented.
- Recommendations numbered: NONE have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
- Recommendations numbered: R1, R2, and R3 require further analysis.
- Recommendations numbered: NONE will not be implemented because it is not warranted or are not reasonable.

Date: July 8, 2013. Signed:

Mary Neilan

Number of pages attached: 2.

STATEMENT REGARDING FINDINGS

The respondent agrees with the findings.

EXPLANATIONS REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation R1:

The Marin Hazardous and Solid Waste Joint Powers Authority (JPA) prepare the Model Single-Use Bag Ordinance to implement the strictest rules possible and encourage all agencies to adopt the Ordinance with minimal changes. A ban on single-use plastic carry-out bags should be imposed in all grocery stores, convenience stores, pharmacies and restaurants with the County and apply to all establishments, no matter how large or small.

Response:

The City of Belvedere overall agrees with this recommendation but will need to see the findings of the CEQA analysis and weigh political feedback on the concept of including restaurants in a proposed ordinance. Timeline: CEQA completion expected October/November 2013 – City adoption and implementation timeline is To Be Determined.

Recommendation R2:

Marin County and the Marin hazardous and Solid Waste Joint Powers Authority (JPA) members educate the public on the benefits of reusable bags. Marin County and the Marin Hazardous and Solid Waste Joint Powers Authority (JPA) members develop standardized educational guides for all public schools showing the environmental harm done by plastic single-use carry-out bags. Marin County and the Marin Hazardous and Solid Waste Joint Powers Authority (JPA) members develop educational materials and distribute them at public events such as farmers' markets and street fairs.

Response:

The City of Belvedere plans to coordinate and cooperate as much as possible with the JPA and other Cities and Towns to participate in a well-designed, comprehensive education campaign to inform the public about a single use bag ordinance and the benefits of reusable bags. Timeline: CEQA completion expected October/November 2013 – City adoption and implementation timeline is To Be Determined.

Recommendation R3:

Marin Towns and Cities adopt an ordinance to ban all single-use plastic carry-out bags using the Model Single-Use Bag Ordinance with minimal, or no, changes, in order to create a true Countywide ordinance.

The City of Belvedere overall agrees with this recommendation but because each individual City, Town and the County needs to adopt individual ordinances, there may be some variations to the ordinances beyond our control. Timeline: CEQA completion expected October/November 2013 – City adoption and implementation timeline is To Be Determined.



CITY of BELVEDERE

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July 9, 2013

The Honorable Judge James Ritchie
Marin County Superior Court
PO Box 4988
San Rafael CA 94913-4988

Dear Judge Ritchie:

Enclosed please find the City of Belvedere's response to the 2012/13 Marin County Grand Jury's report titled "Holding the Bag." This item was reviewed and considered by the Belvedere City Council at their July 8, 2013 Regular Meeting.

Please extend the City's appreciation to the 2012/13 Grand Jurors for the important work they do on behalf of all of the citizens of the County of Marin.

Sincerely,

Mary Neilan
City Manager

Encl.

cc: Richard Treadgold, Foreperson ✓
Marin County Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #275
San Rafael CA 94913-4988