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## **RE: Resolution in Support of County Plastic Bag Fee**

On Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, Lakewood City Council passed the attached resolution supporting the adoption of the Cuyahoga County Council's proposed plastic bag fee. Supporting this countywide initiative is in the best interest of our environment and Lakewood citizens' long-term health and wellbeing.

It is estimated that only 5% of disposable plastic bags are recycled. Many bags end up in our waterways with 5.5 million pounds of plastic pollution contaminating Lake Erie each year. With Lakewood's three and a half miles of shoreline along Lake Erie, protecting our lake is our responsibility and should remain our top priority. Municipalities around the nation such as Washington DC, Chicago, and Las Angeles County have instituted fees for disposable bags with great success, with reductions in litter and water pollution.

This law also provides protection exempting those who use SNAP (Food Stamps) and thus avoids being regressive and is not onerous to vulnerable populations. The fees collected through this ordinance will be split between the retailer (40%) and County (60%), creating both an economic opportunity for retailers and a funding source for the County to provide environmental education and free reusable bags to the public. Supporting this disposable bag fee is consistent with the City's Community Vision which articulates a goal of adopting environmental best practices as well as the City's recently expressed focus on resiliency.

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