

RESOLUTION # 08- 16

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL DISCOURAGING THE USE OF DISPOSABLE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS

WHEREAS, the City of Albany (City) is committed to policies that promote the health and well-being of our community and of our environment; and

WHEREAS, on September 4, 2007 City Council established by resolution a goal to divert 75% of waste from the landfill by 2010; and

WHEREAS, the City has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions 25% below 2004 levels by the year 2020; and

WHEREAS, each year over a trillion plastic bags are used worldwide, and the production and use of which have significant environmental impacts, including litter, the consumption of 12 million barrels of oil, and the deaths of thousands of marine animals; and

WHEREAS, plastic bags do not biodegrade, but break down through abrasion and tearing into small toxic bits that contaminate soil, waterways and the marine environment, where they are mistaken for food by animals, or animals become entangled in the plastics; and

WHEREAS, environmentally preferable alternatives to plastic bags are readily available and include reusable cloth bags and recycled paper bags, and retail outlet stores could do more to educate and encourage their customers to use such alternatives; and

WHEREAS, governments in several countries have taken action to discourage the use of plastic bags, including the local cities of Oakland and San Francisco; and