

The Parliament of St. Maarten, in its meeting of today March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

**CONSIDERING:**

- 1) That the widespread provision of single-use disposable plastic carry-out bags to consumers creates significant problems relating to their disposal and effect on the environment;
- 2) That most plastic bags go into landfill, or rubbish tips and each year more and more plastic bags are ending up littering the environment. Once they become litter, plastic bags find their way into our waterways, beaches and streets; and pose a risk to (marine-) animals that ingest them by mistaking the bags for food; and or become entangled in them; in either case death is the result thereof;
- 3) That the manufacturing of plastic bags add tons of carbon emissions into the air annually and it is estimated that approximately 60 to 100 million barrels of oil are required each year to produce plastic bags for the world. Resulting in between 500 billion and 1 trillion plastic bags being used worldwide per year;
- 4) That one of the worst environmental effects of plastic bags is that they are non-biodegradable. It has been scientifically established that, most plastic bags take about over 400 to 1,000 years to biodegrade;
- 5) That approximately 100,000 sea turtles and other marine animals are killed every year due to plastic bags;
- 6) That several businesses on St. Maarten have taken the initiative to deal with the environmental impact of plastic bags by endorsing the use of paper bags or other biodegradable bags by their customers;
- 7) That since around the year 2003 environmental organizations in St. Maarten, such as St. Maarten Pride Foundation has embarked on a campaign towards the ban of single-use disposable plastic carry out-bags;
- 8) That subsequent to the campaign towards the restriction of the use of plastic bags on St. Maarten and in collaboration with EPIC (Environmental Protection in the Caribbean), a policy-framework was drafted in November 2011, which was submitted to the Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport & Communication of St. Maarten in order to have the current legislation updated, implemented and enforced;
- 9) That it is in the best interest of the population of St. Maarten, St. Maarten's natural environment and the island's main economic pillar, tourism, to limit adverse effects on the environment associated with single-use disposable plastic carry-out bags.

*St. Rijkmansoch*

*22-03-12*

*[Signature]*

*22-03-2012*

*[Signature]*

*22/3/2012*

*22/3/12*

*22 3 2012*

*23-March 2012*

**RESOLVES:**

- A. That the Parliament of St. Maarten is against the importation and production of single-use disposable carry-out bags;
- B. That the Parliament of St. Maarten supports a ban on the distribution of single-use disposable plastic carry-out bags, whether through sale or as a complimentary service, to consumers; by wholesalers and retailers: including but not limited to merchants, grocery stores, drug stores, liquor stores, restaurants, gas stations and food vendors;
- C. That all wholesalers and retailers shall provide only the following as carry-out bags to consumers: reusable carry-out bags, recyclable carry-out bags or entirely biodegradable carry-out bags;
- D. To call on the government of St. Maarten to present to Parliament within 120 days a draft ordinance regulating the ban of single-use plastic carry-out bags for its consideration.
- E. To apply the Draft Policy mentioned in the above consideration as a blue-print to introduce new legislation or to amend existing legislation stipulating a ban on plastic bags.

And proceeds to the order of the day.

Copies of this motion to be sent to:  
The Governor of St. Maarten  
The Government of St. Maarten  
The Council of Advice of St. Maarten

Signed on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of the month of March in the year 2012.

*[Handwritten signatures and dates in blue and black ink]*

*Dr Ruth A.G. Douglas*  
22 3 2012

*22/3/2012*

*03/22/12*

*22-03-12*

*22-MAR-2012*

*22/3/2012*



**STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN**  
**Thursday, March 22, 2012 Public Meeting no. 13**

**Voting list Amendment no. 10**

*Clarice bay*

NO.	NAME	VOOR/FOR	TEGEN/AGAINST
1.	<b>Drs. Gracita R. Arrindell</b>		
2.	<b>P.G. Illidge</b>		
3.	<b>S.V. Olivacce-Meyers</b>		
4.	<b>J.E. Leonard</b>		
5.	<b>J.C. James</b>		
6.	<b>R.J. Laville</b>		
7.	<b>R.A.G. Douglass</b>		
8.	<b>R.R. Marlin</b>		
9.	<b>P.L. de Weever</b>		
10.	<b>W.V. Marlin</b>		
11.	<b>L.J. Richardson</b>		
12.	<b>G.C. Pantophlet</b>		
13.	<b>H.L. Richardson</b>		
14.	<b>L.E. Laveist</b>		
15.	<b>F.G. Richardson</b>		

*Algemene Orde*  
*Algemene*