

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver
Proclamation CP12-0387

In recognition of the vital role of reusable bags in contributing to the sustainability of our environment and naming May 14, 2012 Denver Reusable Bag Day

WHEREAS, for three years a group of Skinner Middle School students has worked to encourage reusable bags since finding out at as sixth graders that over one billion seabirds and mammals die yearly due to plastic bag debris; and

WHEREAS, by distributing free bags, the students have helped the community recognize that the utilization of reusable bags by businesses and consumers plays a vital role in the sustainability of our environment; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that over 380 billion plastic bags, sacks and wraps are consumed in the United States annually and Better Bags Colorado estimated that over 50 million plastic bags are disposed of in Denver yearly; and

WHEREAS, if each Denver resident reduced their annual use of plastic bags by half, collectively we would save the amount of petroleum required to drive a car around the earth's equator more than 175 times; and

WHEREAS, by encouraging the use of reusable bags, we can reduce litter and prevent the deaths of animals that choke or get tangled in discarded bags; and

WHEREAS, a single reusable bag can replace thousands of one time use disposable bags; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Denver encourages reusable bags in conjunction with outreach promotions, such as the Denver Public Library Reusable Bag Program; Greenprint Denver Neighborhood Green Team Outreach Program; the Greenprint Denver Take 5 for the Environment Campaign; the 2009 Reusable Bag Challenge to Grocery Stores; and the 2012 Better Buildings Denver, providing efficiency and sustainability assistance to Denver's small businesses, nonprofit institutions, large commercial buildings, restaurants, auto repair, office and retail.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That we encourage consumers and businesses in Denver to employ reusable bags, instead of disposable ones, for their shopping needs, and naming May 14, 2012 Denver Reusable Bag Day.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the indomitable students of Skinner Middle School.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL May 14, 2012

PRESIDENT