



September 29, 2013

Mayor Michael Hancock
City & County of Denver
1437 Bannock Street, #350
Denver, CO 80202

Council President Mary Beth Susman; Councilwoman Susan Shepherd;
Councilwoman Jeanne Faatz; Councilman Paul Lopez; Councilwoman Peggy Lehmann;
Councilman Charlie Brown; Councilman Chris Nevitt; Councilman Albus Brooks,
Councilwoman Judy Montero; Councilwoman Jeanne Robb; Councilman Chris Herndon;
Councilwoman Robin Kniech; Councilwoman Debbie Ortega

Re: Fees for bags, Council Bill 13-501

Dear Members of City Council and Mayor Hancock:

Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods (CHUN) is a Registered Neighborhood Organization with a membership of over 1000 residents serving the Greater Capitol Hill neighborhood. CHUN's boundaries are from Broadway to Colorado Blvd. and from 1st Avenue to 22nd Avenue. The following motion regarding Council Bill 13-501 regarding fees for paper and plastic bags was made and discussed at the CHUN September 19 regular monthly board of delegates meeting:

Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods should communicate to the City Council and Mayor that it supports Council Bill 13-501, which will be considered at a public hearing on September 30. The bill is designed to reduce the use of single use shopping bags in Denver and encourage shoppers to use reusable bags. It would impose a 5 cent fee on paper and plastic point-of-sale bags consumed by shoppers at food stores. This motion was passed at the September 4, 2013 CHUN Zoning and Transportation Committee by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention.

The CHUN motion was approved at its September 19th Board Mtg. with 11- in favor, 4-opposed, 1-abstention

Discussion points at the board meeting were: 1) this will encourage people to re-use shopping bags and reduce the number of plastic and paper bags entering Denver's waste stream; 2) plastic bags harm the environment; 3) this is not a major step, but an important step toward protecting the environment; 4) many other cities have taken this step; 5) Denver should play a leadership role in the metro area and others will follow.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Respectfully,

Roger Armstrong
Executive Director