



NEWS.....

FROM CHRIS HIGGINS

ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATOR

6TH DISTRICT

**HUDSON/PARK, WASHINGTON PARK, PARK SOUTH,
CENTER SQUARE & THE MANSION NEIGHBORHOODS**
88 DOVE STREET, ALBANY, NY 12210

EMAIL: CHRISTOPHER.HIGGINS@ALBANYCOUNTY.COM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: CHRIS HIGGINS
(845) 797-9315

HIGGINS SPONSORED LOCAL LAW REQUIRING MANDATORY PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING PROGRAMS ON MONDAY'S COUNTY LEGISLATURE AGENDA

Hudson/Park – County Legislator Chris Higgins (D) announced today that Local Law No. “D” Establishing An At-Store Recycling Program For Plastic Bags has been scheduled for a vote at Monday’s full Albany County Legislature meeting.

The bill would require all big box stores in Albany County 10,000 square feet or larger to establish in-store recycling programs so that citizens can bring their plastic bags in to be recycled.

“We in Albany County need to take proactive steps to help protect our environment. These bags have become a nuisance in our communities, cluttering drains, sticking to trees, and if given the opportunity, I am confident people in Albany would bring them back to stores to be recycled”, said Legislator Higgins.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that only 5.2 percent of the plastic bags in the United States were recycled in 2005. Moreover, it can take up to 1,000 for plastic bags to decompose.

Under this local law operators of stores 10,000 square foot or larger must place clearly marked and identifiable collection bins at or near the entrances to their stores so that consumers can voluntarily drop off their plastic bags. Failure to comply with the law can result in fines up to \$1,000. Finally, the County Department of Consumer Affairs shall

undertake a public awareness campaign so that consumers are aware of this option and the merits of recycling plastic bags.

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