

**EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 923**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER, DEFERRING THE  
EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE CITY'S PLASTIC BAG DISTRIBUTION  
RESTRICTIONS AS SET FORTH IN CHAPTER 73, "ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY", ARTICLE I, "PLASTIC BAGS"  
UNTIL JULY 1, 2021**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Local Gov't Art., § 5-206 of the Maryland Annotated Code, the Mayor and Common Council of Westminster ("the City") has the authority to enact ordinances to assure the good government of the municipality; protect and preserve the municipality's rights, property, and privileges; preserve peace and good order; secure persons and property from danger and destruction; and protect the health, comfort, and convenience of the residents of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, upon findings related to the gravity of the harm caused to the environment and by extension to the City's residents by virtue of the presence of plastic bags in the waste stream, the City enacted Ordinance No. 911, imposing certain restrictions on the distribution at business establishments of single-use plastic bags, in order to protect the environment in the City and the planet; to reduce the presence of unsightly plastic bags in the public streets, gutters, rights-of-way, and trees; to protect the City's watershed, protect wildlife such as birds from injury due to plastic bags; and to reduce the City's impact on climate change; and

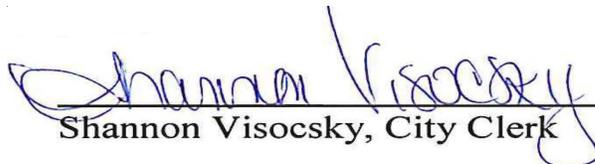
WHEREAS, the effective date of Ordinance No. 911, as adopted, is July 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, many of the City's retail businesses, like businesses across the country, are struggling to survive in the current COVID-19 pandemic environment and the Mayor and Common Council wish to alleviate any unnecessary burden on them during this state of emergency caused by the COVID-19 virus that might otherwise arise on account of the plastic bag distribution restrictions in Ordinance No. 911.

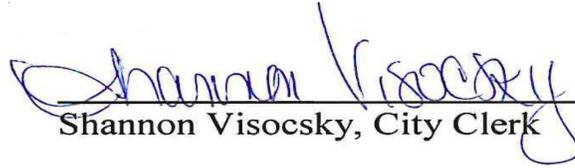
Section 1. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Common Council of Westminster, that the effective date of Ordinance No. 911 be and hereby is deferred until July 1, 2021.

Section 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Mayor and Common Council that this Ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure, under Section 41 of the Council's Rules of Procedure, permitting this Emergency Ordinance to take effect immediately upon adoption, in order to ensure that local businesses covered by the provisions of Ordinance No. 911 will be able to avoid unnecessary expenditures to prepare for implementation as of the original effective date hereof.

INTRODUCED this 11th day of May, 2020

  
Shannon Visocsky, City Clerk

PASSED this 11th day of May, 2020

  
Shannon Visocsky, City Clerk

APPROVED this 11th day of May, 2020

  
Joe Dominick, Mayor

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency  
this 25th day of May, 2020

  
Elissa D. Levan, City Attorney