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PRESS RELEASE

The Town of Hamden’s Passage of Rules for Retail Store Plastic Bags and Single-Use Straws Becomes Operative September 14, 2019

In April 2019, the Town of Hamden became a member of BYOCT, a coalition of CT towns and cities, addressing the economic, social justice, human health and environmental threats disposable plastic waste pose for our residents. Hamden was the fifth Connecticut town to pass ordinances aimed to reduce litter and waste and protect the environment for the benefit and welfare of its residents. The Quinnipiack Valley Health District (QVHD), joins the Town in their efforts to ban the distribution of plastic and non-compliant paper checkout bags and limit single-use straws. The ordinance states that single-use beverage straws shall only be available upon the request of a customer. These new rules for retailers become operative on September 14, 2019. Business owners with questions or concerns about the impending ban should contact QVHD by September 8th at (203)-248-4528.

A new state law regarding single-use checkout bags was passed in June impacting all Connecticut residents. Starting August 1, 2019, ending June 30, 2021 each store shall charge a fee of ten cents for each single-use checkout bag provided to a customer at the point of sale. Those who shop in Hamden establishments between August 1st and September 14th can learn more about the state law by visiting: http://www.bit.ly/DRSBAGS

Once the laws pertaining to single-use straws and checkout plastic bags become operative on September 14, 2019, residents can assist the Town and QVHD by letting QVHD know anonymously if they receive plastic checkout bags or are given single-use straws without asking. This will be possible at www.qvhd.org/BYOHamden.

Media Partners will soon be advised of an information press conference to be held with representatives from the Town and QVHD. Leslie Balch, QVHD’s Director of Health said, “I look forward to working with the Town of Hamden to support one another and our retailers and shoppers in their efforts to decrease the use of single-use items. A single effort from each of us can result in a big difference for the community and the future.”

QVHD encourages people to bring reusable bags with them when shopping to “stop waste before it starts”! We make it easier for residents to be involved by spreading the word, working with retailers, and asking residents tell us if and where you’ve seen non-compliant checkout bags being used or single-use straws available without asking for it. Just visit our website or call (203) 248-4528 after September 14th to let us know.

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