



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

TEMPORARY EMERGENCY ORDER BY COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND CITY MANAGER REGARDING PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 8.68 OF THE CAMBRIDGE MUNICIPAL CODE, THE "BRING YOUR OWN BAG" ORDINANCE AND TEMPORARY MEASURES TO BE TAKEN BY RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

WHEREAS, COVID-19, also known as Coronavirus, has become a pandemic and a public health emergency world-wide, including in the City of Cambridge (the "City"); and

WHEREAS, national governments around the world, as well as state and local governments, have promulgated emergency orders and continue to do so in an effort to slow the spread of this highly infectious disease; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Cambridge Public Health Department recommend that measures be taken to slow the spread of COVID-19, such as avoiding close contact with others as much as possible and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces and objects; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 8.68 of the Cambridge Municipal Code, entitled "Bring Your Own Bag" (the "Ordinance"), encourages the use of reusable checkout bags and the reduction of the use of disposable checkout bags by retail establishments which are defined in the Ordinance as any commercial enterprise, whether for or not for profit, including, but not limited to restaurants, pharmacies, convenience and grocery stores, liquor stores, seasonal and temporary businesses, jewelry stores, and household goods stores (hereinafter, "Retail Establishments"); however, this does not include bazaars operated by nonprofit organizations or religious institutions; and

WHEREAS, Retail Establishments are providing essential services and customers' use of reusable checkout bags that have not been sufficiently disinfected will likely contribute to the spread of COVID-19 among the staff and patrons of such establishments; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Public Health has determined that the staff of Retail Establishments should not perform bagging of retail products if reusable checkout bags are used; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Public Health that the risk of spreading COVID-19 is increased where the numbers of staff and customers in Retail Establishments at the same time are not kept to a minimum;

WHEREAS, immediate action is needed to prevent, minimize, or mitigate damage to public health, safety, or general welfare of the people which may otherwise result from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Public Health and the City Manager have statutory and regulatory authority to take emergency public health measures including ordering a change in standard operating procedures in private businesses;

NOW THEREFORE, the Cambridge Commissioner of Public Health and the City Manager hereby order, effective immediately, that staff of Retail Establishments shall not perform bagging of retail products if reusable checkout bags are used and customers at Retail Establishments shall not use reusable checkout bags until further notice. This Order is in effect immediately.

In addition, the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works, the Executive Director of the License Commission, the Commissioner of Inspectional Services Department, and the Commissioner of Public Health have advised that due to the public health emergency, until further notice, those departments will temporarily cease enforcement of the provisions of Section 8.64.040(C) of Chapter 8.68 of the Cambridge Municipal Code, and the Regulations promulgated thereunder, which require a fee of ten cents be charged for each recyclable paper bag or compostable

plastic bag provided by a Retail Establishment. Accordingly, effective immediately and until further notice, Retail Establishments may choose to utilize recyclable paper or compostable plastic checkout bags provided by Retail Establishments and shall not assess the ten cents charge required under Section 8.64.040(C) of Chapter 8.68 where such recyclable paper or compostable plastic checkout bags are used, and further, staff of Retail Establishments are ordered to perform bagging of all retail products in recyclable paper or compostable plastic checkout bags provided by the Retail Establishments in lieu of any reusable bags provided by the customers.

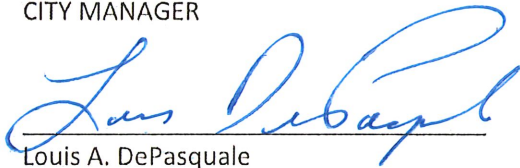
Further, all Retail Establishments are ordered to instruct staff and customers to maintain a distance of six (6) feet when possible, and to implement measures to limit the number of customers and staff present inside the retail establishment simultaneously, including, but not limited to, ordering that customers form a queue in single file, spaced six (6) feet apart, outside of the Retail Establishments, and permitting only an amount of customers to leave the queue and enter the Retail Establishments that will allow for the number of people inside the Retail Establishment to be kept to a minimum.

In addition, Retail Establishments are reminded to encourage employees to wash their hands with soapy water at regular intervals during their shifts, to regularly clean all frequently touched surfaces, including, but not limited to, baskets and carts, door handles, chairs, tables, countertops, checkout surfaces, cash registers and self-checkout stations, with disinfectants, to make reasonable efforts to provide gloves to employees interacting with customers, and to make available hand sanitizer or sanitizing wipes to be used by employees and customers entering the Retail Establishment.

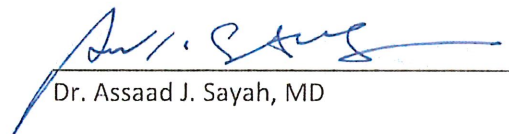
This Order shall remain in effect until further notice.

Dated March 23, 2020

CITY MANAGER


Louis A. DePasquale

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH


Dr. Assaad J. Sayah, MD