

FREE REUSABLE BAG EVENT KICKS-OFF NEW PLASTICS BAN

ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS, NJ. To kick-off the first weekend of Atlantic Highland's ban on single-use plastic bags -- as well as the limited distribution of plastic straws -- over 900 free, reusable bags were handed-out this weekend at local shops and the Foodtown grocery store. Over a half dozen community leaders (Ellen Bollinger, Alyson Denzler (AH Board of Education President) & daughter Kathryn, Ann Forbes, Jim Krauss (Chairman, Environmental Commission), Marilyn Scherfen (Indivisible Bayshore Environmental Committee) and Kate Wigginton (Shade Tree Commissioner) joined Mayor & Council representatives, Brian Boms, Steve Borrachia, Jon Crowley (author of the ordinance), Lori Hohenleitner (co-sponsor), and newly elected Mayor, Loretta Gluckstein for the two-day in-store event. Borough administrator, Adam Hubeny, arranged for the acquisition of the bags when Foodtown ownership invited government representatives to help remind shoppers that the bayshore borough is beginning the move away from harmful, single-use plastics.

In the last month, nearly 1,300 bags have been shared with the town's students, local businesses and neighbors-- over a quarter of the Borough's population. "More than 10,000 single use plastic bags per week are handed-out in our town and this is a good first step to cut the problem off at the knees," said councilman Jon Crowley.

"I am proud that Atlantic Highlands is at the forefront of the effort to reduce harmful plastics. Our local businesses have been leaders in making the change with many switching to more sustainable options for their customers even before the ordinance went into effect," said Hohenleitner.

The day before the event, an additional 200 free reusable bags were distributed by the Borough to the town's Chamber of Commerce, Jaspán's hardware, Bayshore pharmacy, and several other shops along First Avenue and in the Foodtown shopping center on Highway 36.

"We're not surprised that our community is fully embracing these efforts for our waterfront town; this was something they had expressed a desire to do over a year ago," said Hohenleitner. Councilman Crowley added, "We listened to our neighbors and we acted. Our town is filled with proactive folks who prefer to write a better roadmap than just follow one."

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