



Town of South Kingstown, Rhode Island

Office of the Town Manager

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Robert C. Zarnetske
Town Manager

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-07

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of South Kingstown declared a state of emergency through an emergency ordinance enacted on March 15, 2020 to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council delegated emergency authority to the Town Manager to take measures he deems necessary in order to protect public health and safety in response to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, disruption of various supply chains has resulted in a shortage of paper bags for use in retail sales at grocery stores and other essential businesses; and

WHEREAS, there is reasonable concern about whether reusable plastic bags might serve as a vector for the SARS-COV-2 virus that causes COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of Chapter 9 of the South Kingstown Town Code, Article VII Plastic Reduction Ordinance, prohibiting retailers from providing their customers with single-use plastic bags, would cause undue hardship in light of the shortage of paper bags; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of the Plastic Reduction Ordinance might contribute to the use of reusable plastic bags that could carry the virus.

NOW THEREFORE the following emergency measures are hereby enacted:

- (1) The South Kingstown Police are directed to cease and desist from enforcing all provisions of Chapter 9, Article VII Plastic Reduction Ordinance of the South Kingstown Town Code until such time as the Town is no longer under a state of emergency as declared by the South Kingstown Town Council;
- (2) No penalty shall be levied on any business under Chapter 9, Article VII, Section 9-185 for any violation of the ordinance that occurred while the Town is under a state of emergency as declared by the South Kingstown Town Council.

Robert Zarnetske, Town Manager
Date: April 8, 2020

Attest:

Susan M. Flynn, Town Clerk