

TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH, RI

Ordinance # 2020 – 04-06

**AN ORDINANCE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING ENFORCEMENT OF
CHAPTER 326, ARTICLE VI OF THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN CODE**

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2018, the Town Council adopted Ordinance No. 2018-03-12, amending the Town Code of Ordinances to add Article VI (“Plastic Bag Regulations”), for the purpose of improving the environment in and around the town and the health, safety, and welfare of its residents by reducing the number of plastic and paper bags being used, encouraging the use and sale of reusable checkout bags, and banning the use of plastic bags for retail checkout of goods, with enforcement stayed until September 1, 2018, and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, the Rhode Island Governor declared a state of emergency in the State of Rhode Island due to the danger to health and life posed by the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic, and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Portsmouth Town Council President declared a local state of emergency in the Town of Portsmouth, and

WHEREAS, concerns have been raised over potential risks of the spread of the COVID-19 virus to merchants, grocers, cashiers, baggers, customers and other members of the public due to the use of reusable checkout bags, and the prohibition of single use plastic bags, during the current coronavirus pandemic,

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Portsmouth:

Section 1. The enforcement of Article VI of Chapter 326 of Town Code (“Plastic Bag Regulations”) is temporarily suspended, from the effective date of this ordinance through and including September 14, 2020.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

**ADOPTED BY TOWN COUNCIL
ACTION ON _____**

Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk