

## Vang, Mai (CI-StPaul)

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**To:** Chao, Diana (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** RE: 1976 Montreal Ave - 7/11/19 Legislative Hearing

**From:** Chao, Diana (CI-StPaul)  
**Sent:** Friday, July 12, 2019 3:59 PM  
**To:** [kentraen@yahoo.com](mailto:kentraen@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** RE: 1976 Montreal Ave - 7/11/19 Legislative Hearing

Mr. Traen,

I understand that you are frustrated with the garbage program and the fact that you are unable to choose your garbage hauler. However, this is a policy that was enacted by the City Council almost two years ago. The aims of citywide garbage service are to ensure consistent pricing across St. Paul and reduce truck traffic by assigning one residential garbage hauler to each neighborhood.

I do not have the ability to change the policies that were enacted by City Council. I am trying to work with you to help you mitigate your current situation. The legislative hearing officer has recommended approval for your Quarter 1 2019 assessment. However, you have the opportunity to reduce your Quarter 2 2019 assessment as well as your garbage bills moving forward if you reduce your cart size to the 35-gallon Small Every Other Week cart. Please let me know if you would like to decrease your cart size. I will coordinate with Gene's Disposal on your behalf to complete this cart swap.

If I do not hear back regarding your cart size selection, the legislative hearing officer will not reduce your pending Quarter 2 2019 assessment.

Thank you,



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City in America

**Diana Chao**  
*Solid Waste Programs Specialist*

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25 West 4th Street  
1500 City Hall Annex  
Saint Paul, MN 55102  
**P:** 651-266-6216

[diana.chao@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:diana.chao@ci.stpaul.mn.us)



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**From:** Ken Traen [<mailto:kentraen@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 12, 2019 3:47 PM  
**To:** Chao, Diana (CI-StPaul) <[Diana.Chao@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Diana.Chao@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: 1976 Montreal Ave - 7/11/19 Legislative Hearing

**Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.**

My reason for contacting your office and my city council person's office was because I had financial restrictions due to unforeseen issues with my business. I was also upset by the behavior of the city or Gene's Disposal taking an empty, never used garbage container and wheeling it from in front of my garage to the curb.

Does the city or Gene's Disposal make a habit of moving garbage cans 50 feet from someone's private property to the curb? It seems obvious that it had less to do with customer service or standard practices and more to do with setting a precedent and trying to establish that I have used this service. I had to store an empty container in my garage to keep them from coming onto my property and to this date I have never used the service.

So, it seems that not only do I have to pay for garbage removal in two places I am not allowed to choose which company provides garbage removal. Imposing this company on me does not seem to have anything to do with health, safety or traffic issues pertaining garbage removal. Daily 12-15 cars make u turns in front of my home. And, buses traveling on Montreal Avenue make multiple stops and no one is trying to keep people from using the bus or restricting where or when the can get off the bus.

The garbage policy seems to have more to do with an agreement established between the city and various vendors and the contract city officials signed. There are health and safety laws in place to address public dumping of garbage or storage of garbage on lots or in the home. And, I am not sure how forcing garbage disposal companies on people based on location has any impact on traffic patterns. This seems to be a policy put in place to maximize the convenience of the disposal companies or the city.

Lastly, I had contacted you about reducing my garbage container to a smaller one but I was told I would have to remain with the same company. What standards are required to be met for a consumer to have a legitimate reason for changing companies? It is bad enough that there is a monopoly on internet and telecommunications companies but now the city dictates how much garbage I should pay to have removed and assigns me a company rather than allowing me to make my own choice.

Ken Traen, MSW, LICSW  
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On Friday, July 12, 2019, 3:10:24 PM CDT, Chao, Diana (CI-StPaul) <[Diana.Chao@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Diana.Chao@ci.stpaul.mn.us)> wrote:

Hello Kenneth,

This is a follow-up email regarding the legislative hearing for your property at 1976 Montreal Ave.

Under citywide garbage service, all residential properties with up to four units, including rental homes and townhomes, are required to have a garbage cart and receive garbage service for each dwelling unit. Property owners must provide garbage service for all occupied dwellings. There is no option to opt out of the citywide garbage service.

The legislative hearing officer reviewed your situation during the legislative hearing on 7/11. She has recommended that the pending assessment of \$110.48 for Quarter 1 2019 (Jan – Mar) be approved. You can view and pay this bill at [www.stpaul.gov/assessments](http://www.stpaul.gov/assessments). You also reserve the right to attend the City Council Public Hearing indicated in the letter you received from the City assessment office (titled “Public Hearing Notice - Ratification of Assessment”) if you would like to pursue the matter further.

However, if you would like to decrease your cart size from the 64-gallon Medium cart to the 35-gallon Small Every Other Week cart, I can help you coordinate with your hauler. If you decrease your cart size, the legislative hearing office will reduce the pending garbage assessment for Quarter 2 2019 (Apr – Jun) to the cost of the 35-gallon Small Every Other Week cart. The quarterly cost for a Small Every Other Week cart is \$60.83.

Please let me know whether or not you would like to decrease your cart size. I can contact Gene’s Disposal on your behalf to coordinate the cart swap.

Thank you,



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