

Dear Saint Paul City Council Member:

I write to express my concern over the recently enacted citywide trash collection. I have owned and lived in my duplex in the Summit-University neighborhood since 1982, at which time my spouse and I rehabbed this condemned building. In all those years, I have only needed one small garbage bin for both me and my tenants. I am now being forced to pay for two bins at more than double the cost of the one bin I have used for years. I find this unacceptable.

I was informed via the new citywide garbage collection flyer that if the number and size of the bin I was using was correct, I need not do anything to change it. I then received another flyer that informed me I would be receiving two bins, a small one at \$70.32 per quarter and a medium one at \$96.09 per quarter.

I am now a single, retired, female living on a limited income. My tenant is a single woman. We do not even fill up one small garbage bin each week. We are avid composters and recyclers. To require me to have two bins for two individuals living in a house that happens to be a duplex is unreasonable. Yet, the single family homes in my block that may have 5 persons and more living in them are able to choose one bin. Does this make sense? Wouldn't it make more sense to assign garbage bins based on the number of people in a building?

This policy needs to be changed. I'm all for a single garbage hauler serving my neighborhood, rather than having dozens of haulers coming by in a day or throughout the week. But citizens need to be trusted to choose the number and size of the bins based on their needs, not on the assumption that every unit in multiple residential buildings needs its own bin. Were citizens involved in making this decision? Is this what democracy looks like? Couldn't this policy change be placed on the November ballot?

I also question the need to use garbage services that are located out of state. My neighborhood has been assigned Republic Services, which is located in Kentucky (the address for billing) or Arizona (where phone calls are received). Are there not enough local and regional garbage services to take care of St. Paul?

Please respond to these concerns and questions, which are not rhetorical.

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P.S. I am still waiting for my old trash bin to be picked up. (It belongs to Berquist & Sons, who have been a reliable trash hauler for me since 1982.) I'm also waiting for the extra and larger Republic bin to be picked up, as promised by the company via telephone. I have no need for this bin and will not use it.