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**Date:** 8/17/2011 8:50 AM  
**Subject:** Item 6 on 8/17 Agenda - RES 11-1456

Please consider this background information concerning Resolution 11-1456 which directs the Public Works Department to use the Solid Waste and Recycling Fund to pay District Councils for the annual cleanups.

There are a number of items that are brought to neighborhood cleanups that not only can be reused, but have significant economic value to local small business owners. These items include furniture, lawnmowers/snowblowers, architectural salvage, and bicycles. There are small, tax-paying businesses in St. Paul that would welcome the opportunity to obtain saleable goods at these events, with the understanding that they also are responsible for proper disposal of the items that they cannot use.

Under the current system, each district council chooses vendors to process the various items that are brought to neighborhood cleanups. Eureka Recycling has compiled a vendor list. In most cases, the person doing the vendor selection is the executive director or a paid staff person of a district council, although some DCs delegate vendor selection to Eureka Recycling. The list includes a mix of non-profit and for-profit entities from around the metro area. There are no qualifications to be on this list, but to my knowledge there is no method to solicit new participants for this list. It appears to be primarily compiled from organizations who have participated in past cleanup events. My business, Mr. Michael Recycles Bicycles, has been on this list for several years, but has not been invited to any St. Paul neighborhood cleanups since 2008. Prior to 2008, St. Paul's neighborhood cleanups were the primary source of bicycles for my business, and my business handled most of the cleanups in St. Paul.

Since the City of St. Paul is the primary funding source for these events, and those funds are derived from the taxes paid by St. Paul's citizens and business owners, I believe that the City should develop vendor selection guidelines that are more inclusive and give all businesses in St. Paul the opportunity to participate. I believe that St. Paul businesses should be given priority over those located outside the city when multiple vendors for a specific product express interest in participating in a particular event. In the event that multiple St. Paul entities are competing for the same event, a lottery should be used to select the vendor. A modest fee could be assessed when vendors apply in order to offset costs.

It is not fair for district council staff or Eureka Recycling to choose vendors for cleanups based on personal preference or relationships. There are a lot of second-hand dealers and small-engine repair businesses in St. Paul who should be given equal access to the goods generated at taxpayer-funded neighborhood cleanups. Please consider developing guidelines to ensure equal access for all St. Paul businesses to the economic benefits of being a vendor at neighborhood cleanups.

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