

July 14, 2017

St. Paul City Council
C/O Russ Stark, Council President
15 Kellogg Boulevard West
310 City Hall
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Dear Council Members:

As we stated in our letter to the St. Paul City Council on June 7, 2016, "The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) supports St. Paul's efforts and powers to manage waste in their jurisdiction to meet the State's waste hierarchy goals. Specifically, the MPCA supports St. Paul's (City) decision to thoughtfully analyze organized waste collection." The MPCA continues to support the City in this decision. In addition, we thank the City for their thorough process and willingness to work with various haulers to work toward a solution that everyone can agree upon.

The MPCA recognizes many environmental benefits to organized collection. Organized collection cities in Minnesota average 579 pounds of recycling per household per versus 510 recycling pounds per household in open subscription cities. Garbage trucks in open subscription cities use anywhere from 200 to 430 percent more fuel than organized cities due to route inefficiency.

As we stated in our previous letter, "The MPCA supports developing systems that:

- Are designed to maximize environmental benefits;
- Prioritize price, customer service and safety;
- Allow opportunities (through either use of zones and/or consortiums of haulers) for independent, small, local, minority and women owned trash haulers to be successful; and
- Are customized to meet the needs of the diverse communities and neighborhoods that rely on these services."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important decision. It is clear that the City is committed to protecting the environment while ensuring the best outcome for its residents. If the MPCA can be of further assistance, please contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,



Kirk Koudelka
Assistant Commissioner

KK:PD:cbg