

Colleen Halpine  
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February 1, 2019

Chris Swanson  
Supervisor of Solid Waste  
Department of Public Works  
1500 City Hall Annex  
25 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
St Paul, MN 55102  
[christopher.swanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:christopher.swanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

Sent via email and US mail

Dear Chris Swanson:

I am writing to explain my nonpayment of the Garbage Collection Services bill mailed to me by Highland Sanitation. I have never used the garbage collection service which was formed as a result of the negotiated contract between the hauler consortium and the City of St Paul. I have found other means to dispose of my garbage for my property. I have never used the city carts which are in my garage. I plan to return these to you as I am not using them and don't want them on my property.

I am opposed to the City negotiated contract with the hauler consortium for many reasons. First among them is the increased cost. My bill for the year will be \$400 more than what I was paying before the negotiated contract was put into effect in October 2018. That is nearly a 100% increase.

Secondly, I object to the no sharing provision which forces more unneeded service oftentimes onto very vulnerable residents who cannot afford this service and were doing fine sharing with their neighbors.

Thirdly, I object to the fact that the hauler and city negotiated contract does not reward or encourage or enhance waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting. According to a cost analysis using St Paul Public Works data authored by an economist volunteering with the grass roots group, St Paul Trash.com, collection costs are increased by \$7 million each year compared to private hauler fees collected before the negotiated contract went into effect. This \$7 million should not have been assessed and used for more duplicative garbage collection. Any new money going into solid waste management should be invested in waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting, reducing our overall impact on the environment.

Lastly, and actually most importantly, I strongly oppose the City Council's determination that Ordinance 18-39 is not appropriate for a referendum ballot question when it is clear that the referendum process was sufficient. The City Council is not listening to the citizens and is not upholding City Charter Rules, State Law and thereby is violating the citizens' legal right to a referendum.

Sincerely,



Colleen Halpine  
110 Virginia St.  
St Paul, MN 55102

CC: Dai Thao, Councilmember Ward 1, 310-A City Hall, 15 Kellogg Blvd. West, St Paul, MN 55102  
CC: Mai Chong Xiong, Legislative Aide ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us