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July 19, 2017

Department of Public Works
Attn: Kris Hageman
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: Coordinated Trash Collection

Dear Kris:

During 2015 and 2016, the Macalester-Groveland Community Council completed a comprehensive examination of trash collection. We researched the history of the issue, talked to trash haulers, held community conversations with residents city-wide, received 2,000 responses to an online survey and interviewed other communities that had recently transitioned to organized trash collection from open systems.

In our resulting report (available at macgrove.org/trash), we concluded that an organized trash collection system would result in multiple benefits for all of Saint Paul, including the small and local haulers whom we seek to support. Additionally, we outlined multiple recommendations for the City's consideration.

We are pleased to support the City's latest draft agreement with the Haulers (the "Seventh Proposal") as this agreement is consistent with many of the findings and recommendations in our report including:

- Provides stable, equitable and uniform city-wide rates
- Incentivizes recycling and reduced trash production due to substantial differences in pricing for various cart sizes
- Includes pick-up for 3 bulky items per year
- Offers an ability to opt-in for specialized services such as yard waste pick-up and valet service
- Provides a living wage for drivers and other employees of hauling companies
- Includes City reimbursement to haulers for non-payment for services provided
- Stipulates contract re-negotiations based on actual tonnage hauled with monthly reporting requirements
- Contractual framework consists of one contract with one legal entity representing of all 15 currently licensed haulers

Additionally, we note an option to begin negotiating an organics recycling program when the trash contract is finalized. We strongly encourage all parties to begin such negotiations as soon as feasible. Affordable, convenient curbside organics pick-up is a crucial component of reducing waste in the City of Saint Paul.

Sincerely,

Liz Boyer
Executive Director
Macalester-Groveland Community Council