

Ward 2 Organized Trash Collection Constituent Feedback

Standard text of the ***Wrong Idea, Wrong Time*** email:

Dear Council Member Rebecca Noecker,

A complete take over of garbage service in Saint Paul is far more complicated and not something city hall should be involved in. We object to City appointees efforts to create a government-run, one-size-fits "solution" for every home dictating costs and service level arrangements.

This is the wrong idea at the wrong time. A takeover of garbage takes the choice away from homeowners, puts companies out of business, and employees out of work. Saint Paul should be focusing its time and energy on skyrocketing skyway and gun crime, balancing the city budget, fixing rec centers, and recruiting new businesses and jobs.

The City shouldn't fix something that is not broken!

Constituent comments:

henry anacker, 10xx LINCOLN AVE

Kristine Szczech, HEATHER PL

I am so happy with my garbage collector (garbage man), i have had to deal with a number garbage service.

When I have lived in places where there was no choice or limited choice, I paid more and the fees kept creeping up little by little. Please don't do a takeover service. Deborah Johnson, 7xx MANOMIN AVE

Constituent (independent) in favor comment:

Dear Councilmember Noecker,

I wanted to let you know how much I support both the new city recycling efforts (our service has been nearly flawless) and the move towards coordinated trash hauling. I know there have been frequent complaints including letters to the editor in the Pioneer Press, Highland Villager and similar publications, but I think both the goals and the roll out of the recycling program have been successful for us.

The coordinated trash hauling is an important move toward improving quality of life in the city. I very much like the services of our present hauler, Berquist, but the fact that trash trucks drive down our small, three block street at least four days a week is ridiculous. Eliminating that alone would be an important improvement.

I think the stipulation of hauling a set number of bulky items will be extremely positive—just this weekend I saw several mattresses, a recliner and other such items left on Ayd Mill Rd and alongside some other quieter streets—and know that hauling such items is problematic for many people. Less important in my opinion is the yard waste and Christmas tree removal. I believe improving the county yard waste sites—longer hours, more locations, additional and more accessible organic sites—an additional site for branches etc., would greatly alleviate problems with roadside dumping while improving participation and that this section of the city proposal could be an area of flexibility with the negotiations.

The complaints against billing coordination just don't ring true either. For nearly 30 years I maintained a second home in St. Peter, Minn., which coordinates trash payment through the municipal utility bill. It worked very well and was extremely efficient. It is incredible that we do not have uniform service, pricing and billing in St. Paul.

Lastly, the protection of workers through the possibility of labor organization is also important to me. I support that goal as well. In my opinion, the attack on labor representation has been the greatest contributor to the erosion of the middle class and the city should require the possibility of organization with as many contractors as possible, if not all.

In short, I urge the council and the city to stick to its plan. Sincerely, Daniel Mollner

Constituent robo-call responses:

Gerald, 1xx W King St – no

Mary Krueger – no

Tom S, 9xx St. Clair – no

Dave C, 7xx Manomin – no

Mara K, St. Albans – no

Anonymous – no

Elizabeth Andrews, 7xx Grand – no

Joanne Fernandez, 7xx Lincoln – no

Julie Goldstein, west side – no