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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

147 Hampshire Street  
Cambridge  
Massachusetts 02139  
617-349-4800

MEMO

William P. Ryan  
Commissioner

To: Robert Healy, City Manager

From: Jan Aceti, Recycling Coordinator

Re: Continuing the Monthly Drop-off at Sherman St. until July 15  
in addition to the permanent drop-off. *ja*

Date: March 29, 1991

I am responding to the City Council's request to consider maintaining a monthly drop-off effort at Sherman St. until July 15 in addition to the permanent drop-off that will be established in April in the Public Works Yard.

I have spoken to a number of volunteers regarding this issue and have received a mixed reaction. The Sherman St. leadership and the more heavily involved Sherman St. volunteers such as Vici Casana, Robert Winters, David Goode, Lori Segal, and Sumner Martinson are opposed to the idea, as I am.

Some of the reasons that I heard from volunteers are as follows:

1. Informing the public about what is going on in recycling is going to be difficult enough with the change to the permanent drop-off and then to curbside. Publicizing both the permanent drop-off schedule and a monthly drop-off schedule for Sherman St. and then the change to curbside is likely to be very confusing to the public. In Vici's words, "Even if the information you are publicizing is incredibly straightforward, some people still don't get it." Publicizing both a permanent and a monthly drop-off may simply inform people that recycling is too confusing to deal with.

2. Informing volunteers about what is going on in recycling is going to be difficult. Since we will need some volunteers at the permanent drop-offs on weekends for a while, our recruitment system will be more complex and confusing if we are recruiting for both a monthly drop-off and a weekly drop-off at the same



3. A drop-off center located in the DPW Yard in the '70's and one located near WGBH attracted recyclers from all over the city, not just from the areas immediately surrounding the drop-off. With the greatly expanded hours of the permanent drop-off, many N. Cambridge residents may prefer to use it, rather than wait in long lines once per month. After the 1 1/2 hour waits in February, the number of recyclers was drastically reduced in March. Many volunteers couldn't remember such a light month since the very beginning of the program. This is a strong indication that people are fed up with the long lines associated with the monthly drop-offs.

4. Although use of the Sherman St. drop-off is likely to be low, most costs of operating the monthly drop-off would still be incurred, in addition to the permanent staffing being funded by the City at the permanent drop-off site. If the monthly drop-off were eliminated, the City would save roughly \$525 in overtime costs per month, for a total of \$2,100 by July 15. Hauling costs for recyclables would be lower by eliminating the monthly drop-off, too, since we could fill up roll-off containers completely at the permanent site before hauling, rather than paying for hauls of half full containers of glass and news at the Sherman St. site.

5. Maintaining the monthly drop-off at Sherman St. will roughly double the administrative time I spend on drop-off recycling between now and July; the critical months for launching curbside collection effectively.

Some of the volunteers I spoke with who regularly donate a few hours per month at Sherman St. were willing to continue doing so.

I strongly recommend, however, that the monthly drop-off at Sherman St. be discontinued as soon as the permanent drop-off is established. In order to implement the curbside program as effectively as possible, we need to focus our administrative, volunteer and financial resources on educating people about curbside collection.



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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
ROBERT W. HEALY  
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI  
Deputy City Manager

April 8, 1991

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Attached please find a response from Jan Aceti, Recycling Coordinator, regarding continuing the monthly drop-off at Sherman Street until July 15, 1991, in addition to the permanent drop-off at the Public Works Yard.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", is written over the typed name and title.

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

Attachment

Consent Agenda # 7

S-491

RE: monthly recycling drop off at Sherman  
Street until July 15, 1991.

In City Council,

April 8, 1991

*Placed on file*