



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

February 4, 1991

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 28, regarding residential home owners precluded from Department of Public Works trash pick-up, please be advised of the following:

This Council Order attempts to raise a complex matter and points out the need for a revised solid waste management program. Simply put, the City cannot expand its services in this area at the present time. The long standing policy of not providing services to new, large residential complexes was adhered to during the 1980's as many large residential complexes were built in the City. Additionally, the decision was made not to accept any customers who had previously used a commercial hauler. The reasons for this policy were both financial and practical. If the City were to expand its services in this area, additional trucks and staffing would be required. The cost to purchase additional haulers is in excess of \$80,000 and the annual operating cost of each truck including personnel and tipping fees is approximately \$484,000.00. Additionally, most of the new residential complexes build in the last 10 years have a trash dumpster set up. Beyond the time involved in backing in and hooking up a dumpster, there would be legal issues involved in letting City equipment and personnel operate on private property. For these reasons, I approved the Public Works Department decision to limit expansion of this service.

While this may not seem fair to some, it is in my opinion legal. For those not happy with this policy, there is unfortunately no legal method under existing state statute for any type of refund for lack of service. There are many services that the City provides that not all taxpayers can partake in.

Over the last several weeks the City has begun working on a comprehensive review of the City's solid waste delivery system. This effort will be intensified in light of recent state aid cutbacks, however, because of the complex nature of the issue involved, a complete plan will most likely not be ready until early 1992.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", is written over a horizontal line.
Robert W. Healy
City Manager

8-227

CONSENT

Awaiting Report Item Number 28 regarding
residential home owners precluded from
the Department of Public Works trash
pick up.

In City Council,

February 4, 1991

*Removed from
Consent
Unanimous Consent
to place back on
Consent agenda
Placed on file*