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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge
Massachusetts 02139
617-349-4800

William P. Ryan
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

FROM: Jan Aceti, Recycling Coordinator

DATE: March 12, 1991

SUBJ: Non-Consent Council Order #49, 3/4/91

Re: Opening the Sherman Street site as a
permanent drop-off site

In response to your request, I have reviewed Council Order #49 regarding opening the Sherman Street site as a permanent drop-off in addition to establishing a permanent drop-off in the DPW Yard.

While having a second permanent site at Sherman St. has the advantage of being more convenient for North Cambridge residents and would increase the tonnage collected to some degree, I believe that the disadvantages are severe, and outweigh the advantage. Having one permanent drop-off at the DPW Yard would be in the best interests of the City for the following reasons.

1. Staffing

Experience throughout the country indicates that drop-off centers must have staffing in order to maintain quality control. The Department of Public Works has budgeted \$5,616 to pay a monitor for 18 hours per week at the DPW site. Because recycling should be as cost effective as possible, I do not recommend doubling the amount of money spent on staffing in order to duplicate the service at Sherman St. Furthermore, I do not suggest that we depend on volunteer staffing for a site at Sherman St. The shortage of volunteers that has plagued the monthly drop-off program and contributed to long waits in line is a prime reason for implementing the permanent drop-off with paid staffing in the first place.



2. Equipment Cost

The cost for renting roll-off containers from BFI is \$250 per month. Renting duplicate containers for the Sherman St. site sites will invariably cost more than renting for just one site. As with staffing, equipment expenditures should be as cost effective as possible.

3. Security

The Somerville Recycling Committee reports that a major problem plaguing their permanent drop-off has been after-hours dumping of materials and vandalism. The Sherman St. site lends itself to after-hours dumping and vandalism because it is not secured. As a matter of fact, Sherman St. has a history of vandalism. In the latest incident vandals attempted to set the wooden salt shed on fire.

The DPW yard, on the other hand, is secured after hours, and is under 24 hour surveillance by the radio tower personnel.

4. Priority of Curbside Collection

I believe that the city's priority at this time should be to focus on implementing curbside collection, and doing it well. The success or failure of curbside collection will determine the credibility of the Cambridge Recycling Program. Therefore, I advocate establishing a permanent drop-off center that is adequate but as simple as possible by limiting it to only one site.

5. Suitability of DPW location

The mid-Cambridge area has the City's highest concentration of apartment buildings, which are most likely to house residents that don't have cars. There is broad agreement at the Department of Public Works and among the Cambridge Recycling Committee that North Cambridge has more car owners than mid-Cambridge. North Cambridge residents are therefore able to transport recyclables to the DPW site.

Furthermore, North Cambridge has a higher percentage of residents that live in buildings with 9 or fewer units, which will be the first to be served by City recyclables collection. The DPW site will better serve residents of the larger buildings, who can recycle at permanent drop-off until their buildings are phased in over six months to a year.

6. Management and Supervision

The Somerville Recycling Committee also reported that they were forced to make operational changes during the first few months that their permanent drop-off was in operation. I expect that

we, too, will experience a shakedown period after our permanent drop-off is established. This period will be much easier to manage if the site is located in the DPW yard where the monitor and myself will be able to communicate easily and quickly. Furthermore, ongoing supervision of the monitor will be easier and take less time at the DPW site than at the Sherman St. site.

I strongly recommend one drop-off site in the DPW Yard as being in the best interests of the City.

cc. Jeffrey Nutting, Public Works Coordinator



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

March 18, 1991

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In reference to Awaiting Report Item No. 36, regarding Sherman Street site as a permanent drop off recycling site, please find attached a response from Jan Aceti, Recycling Coordinator for the City of Cambridge.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachment

Consent Agenda # 12 S-386

Response to Awaiting Report Item Number
36 regarding Sherman Street site as a
permanent deep off recycling site.

In City Council,

March 18, 1991

Moved to Manager's
agenda.
Placed on file.