



**HEARING NOTES**

**Resolution: 21-0032R**

**Informational Hearing - Studying the Feasibility of a Small Hauler Incentive Program**

**Committee:** Health, Environment, and Technology

**Chaired by:** Danielle McCray

**Hearing Date:** April 21, 2021

**Time (Beginning):** 10:00 AM

**Time (Ending):** 11:10 AM

**Location:** Webex Virtual Hearing

**Total Attendance:** Approximately 45 people

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Danielle McCray      John Bullock      Mark Conway  
Phylicia Porter      James Torrence      Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

**Bill Synopsis in the file?** .....  YES     NO     N/A  
**Attendance sheet in the file?** .....  YES     NO     N/A  
**Agency reports read?** .....  YES     NO     N/A  
**Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded?**.....  YES     NO     N/A  
**Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file?**.....  YES     NO     N/A  
**Evidence of notification to property owners?** .....  YES     NO     N/A  
**Final vote taken at this hearing?** .....  YES     NO     N/A  
**Motioned by:** ..... Conway  
**Seconded by:**..... Bullock  
**Final Vote:** ..... Favorable

**Major Speakers**

*(This is not an attendance record.)*

- Marcia Collins, Department of Public Works
- John Chalmers, Department of Public Works
- D’Paul Nibber, Department of Health
- Stephanie Murdock, Department of Housing and Community Development
- Victor Tervalva, Law Department
- Aaron Moore, Department of Finance
- Dan Hymowitz, Mayor’s Office of Performance and Innovation

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## Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairwoman McCray called the hearing to order and explained the Committee's plan for the proceedings.
2. Councilwoman Porter discussed the problem of illegal dumping and explained the ideas for discussion during the hearing.
3. Marcia Collins explained the Department of Public Works' (DPW) small hauler pilot program that allowed small haulers to use the Northwest Transfer Station at no charge. She noted that DPW has not drawn any conclusions regarding the pilot's effect on illegal dumping because COVID-19 impacts could have influenced the data. Ms. Collins also explained that the number of haulers visiting the transfer station during the pilot interfered with other DPW operations at the site.
4. Representatives for the other agencies summarized the written reports.
5. Councilmembers asked the following questions:
  - a. How many small haulers participated in the 2020 Small Hauler Pilot Program? There were 6,800 visits to the Northwest Transfer Station in March. Of those, about 4,900 were paying haulers, 2,509 were existing permit holders, and 1,925 were residential visitors.
  - b. Can small haulers be used to help educate communities about dumping? DPW does provide information to small haulers but has not tried to use them as educators in the wider community.
  - c. Could the program described in the resolution reduce DPW's current operational costs for cleaning up illegal dump sites? Aaron Moore explained the basis for the operating budget for City services.
  - d. Could the City use a contract and ticket system to reduce the chances for abuse? Marcia Collins noted that DPW does currently use contractors for cleanup work.
  - e. How has the pandemic affected enforcement? COVID did reduce the number of investigators in the field and stopped investigators from going through trash bags for identifying information.
  - f. What information does the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) need in citizen complaints to effectively enforce? DHCD needs as much potentially identifying information as possible and video of people or vehicles can be particularly useful.
  - g. Do investigators work on weekends? Several of DHCD's investigators are on the Social Club Taskforce but are not working on weekends specifically for illegal dumping. If someone witnesses illegal dumping as it is happening, they should call 911 for immediate response.
  - h. Where are DHCD's cameras, how many are located in each district, and what is their resolution (sufficient to capture license plates)? DHCD does not share the locations of its cameras publicly but will provide the information to the Committee.
  - i. What percentage of investigator time is focused on investigating illegal dumping? Most days, 5 out of 12 DHCD inspectors are working on illegal dumping issues. That includes responding to 311 service requests and monitoring cameras.
  - j. What is the process for restricting access to frequent dumping sites? DHCD considers requests to restrict access but has to look at the property ownership and access needs for other uses.

6. Members of the public testified about the need to prevent and reduce illegal dumping, align incentives with the zero-waste goal, and improve DPW's operations to reduce barriers for small haulers disposing of waste at City facilities.
7. The Committee voted to recommend the resolution favorably.

**Further Study**

**Was further study requested?**

**Yes**     **No**

**If yes, describe.**

The relevant agencies will provide the following information to the Committee:

1. A comparison of the potential costs of a small hauler incentive program to DPW's current costs for cleaning up illegally dumped waste;
2. The number, resolution, and general location of DHCD's illegal dumping monitoring cameras, broken down by Council District;
3. The areas where the City has restricted access to prevent illegal dumping, broken down by Council District.

**Committee Vote:**

D. McCray: ..... Yea  
 J. Bullock: ..... Yea  
 M. Conway: ..... Yea  
 R. Dorsey: ..... Absent  
 P. Porter: ..... Yea  
 J. Torrence: ..... Yea  
 I. Schleifer: ..... Yea



Matthew L. Peters, Committee Staff

Date: April 23, 2021

Cc: Bill File  
 OCS Chrono File