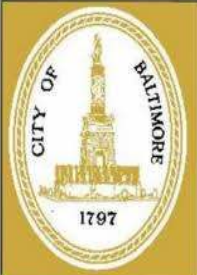


<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Matthew W. Garbark, Acting Director	CITY of BALTIMORE  <i>MEMO</i>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	City Council Resolution 21-0027		

April 30, 2021

**TO:**

Health, Environment, and Technology Committee

I am herein reporting on City Council Resolution 21-0027R introduced by Council Members Torrence, Middleton, Burnett, Bullock, McCray, Ramos, Stokes, Porter, and Cohen.

The purpose of the Resolution is to invite the Acting Director of Public Works and the Acting Commissioner of Housing and Community Development, as well as representatives of the Departments of Law, Health, and Baltimore Police to explain how their agencies assist in solving the problem of illegal dumping.

The term “illegal dumping” is applied to dirty streets and alleys, vacant lots, corner cans, and other Solid Waste services, thus it impacts every operation within the Bureau. The Department operates the Quarantine Road Landfill with a tipping fee that is less than surrounding jurisdictions; provides two (2) locations for small haulers to deposit their loads at a much reduced price, and five (5) convenience centers for residents to drop off their waste and recycling for free; supplies up to four (4) roll off containers per year for communities to have organized cleanups; supports a Mayor’s cleanup every spring and fall; and yet illegal dumping persists.

This Resolution asks the following questions specifically of the Department of Public Works:

What limitations and challenges hamper the Department’s response to illegal dumping?

- The Bureau of Solid Waste responds to Service Requests (SRs) and does proactively clean locations as well, responding as quickly as resources allow. It is important that the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) have the opportunity to perform a full investigation of an illegal dump site before referral to Solid Waste for cleaning. As noted in the FY2020 Illegal Dumping Report, however, very few sites yield evidence sufficient for DHCD to cite a culpable party for an illegal dumping offense, thus the majority of sites are referred to DPW for cleaning and no consequences are meted out to deter future dumping.

- Large and small haulers are required to be licensed, and must keep track of where they collect and dispose of their loads. However, there is no routine inspections of licensed haulers, and the database may not be up to date.

What particular functions and staff are needed to increase efficiency in responding to illegal dumping?

- One way to improve upon response times for cleaning illegal dumping sites is to increase the number of crews, drivers, and equipment assigned to this service. As noted in the technology question, below, more motorized/automated equipment would also increase the efficiency of crews and lower the physical stress of the work.
- A longer-term solution is establishing an eastside transfer station that would improve crews' work turn-around times, as well as a possible third alternative location for small haulers to bring their loads.

What role can technology play in responding to illegal dumping and what opportunities are there to pursue newer, more capable technology?

- The Bureau has been integrating its newly acquired routing software with its Routine Services crews, and looks forward to applying this technology throughout all Solid Waste services. Creating daily routes for cleaning crews could help improve deployment of resources.
- Having more motorized/automated equipment would minimize the amount of manual cleaning, could lessen the amount of time a crew spends per location, and put less stress on the workers.
- A link to direct residents and businesses to find licensed large and small haulers, as well as a means to track and confirm proper disposal, would be of great assistance.

How does the Department use data analysis to find frequent targets of illegal dumping?

- Illegal dumpers tend to select locations to dump their loads in out of the way locations, such as wooded verges of rights-of-way, vacant or abandoned property and lots, remote sections of the City, and areas with high vacancy rates.
- In general, Solid Waste knows what properties or areas are subject to repeated dumping, which are reflected in the SRs that are referred to the Department. Coordination with DHCD helps to target problem areas that could benefit from surveillance cameras, fencing, or blocking access to dumpers.

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- The annual Illegal Dumping Reports include mapping of DHCD data for cited illegal dumping locations.

What is the importance of a renewed campaign and communication strategy regarding littering and illegal dumping?

- Educating residents and businesses to their responsibilities in maintaining their property, the services and locations available for them to effectively manage their trash and debris, and, in this case, how to report illegal dumping, are critical to establishing a partnership with communities to keep our city clean. Just as important are the health of community associations and their leadership network that fosters good communication and information sharing. We need people willing to report what they see.
- With the release of the “Less Waste Better Baltimore” operational plan, the conversation needs to start shifting to the value of what we routinely throw away, opportunities to donate or attend fix-it clinics, and recycling and the importance of recycling right.

What avenues are worth exploring to increase cooperation with the Department and other agencies involved in solving the problem of illegal dumping?

- The Department would like to closer coordinate with DHCD to assist with the citing and cleaning of properties.
- A coordinated investigation with DHCD to check neighborhoods the day before trash collection.
- As mentioned above, work with the Health Department to develop a link that would direct residents and businesses to a list of licensed large and small haulers.
- Work with DHCD and Health Department to routinely track and confirm proper disposal of materials by large and small haulers.

The Department will have representatives present at the hearing to answer any questions the Committee may have on City Council Resolution 21-0027R.

  
on behalf of Matthew W Garbark

Matthew W. Garbark  
Acting Director