



City of Ann Arbor

100 N. Fifth Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Text File

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Ordinance to Amend Sections 2:4 (Points of Storage), 2:5 (Solid Waste Containers) and 2:7 (Solid Waste Facilities) of Chapter 26 of Title II and Section 5:54 (Required Open Space) of Chapter 55 of Title V of the Code of the City of Ann Arbor (Revised)

City Council approval is requested to amend Section 2:4 of Chapter 26 of Title II of the Code of the City of Ann Arbor which addresses points of storage for solid waste collection containers, as well as the related issue in Section 5:54 (Required Open Space) of Chapter 55 of Title V of the Code of the City of Ann Arbor.

The current ordinance requires that solid waste containers be stored at the rear or side of buildings. While this is not a problem at the vast majority of locations, there are a limited number of locations throughout the city where this is not feasible. It is proposed that the City Administrator or the Public Services Area Administrator have the authorization to grant an approval for an alternate at these locations. This information will be tracked in Cityworks and will be subject to periodic reviews.

An example of a business location with this issue is Bellanina Day Spa at 203 N. Fourth Ave. Here they have built an attractive fence at the front corner of their property that screens their solid waste containers.

A residential example is Village Townhomes, located between Washtenaw and Packard. At this location, there is no practical way for middle units to move their trash carts to the sides or backs of the buildings. This location is proposing to install front screening for the containers, either in the form of fencing or vegetation.

Under Section 2:4, Council approval is also requested on modifying the setout time for solid waste containers within the DDA. The proposal will require that solid waste containers (except for 1 and 2 family) not be set out earlier than 5 p.m. the day before collection, and be removed from the curb by noon the day of collection. This item was reviewed with business associations last year, and widely supported.

Council's approval is also requested to amend Section 2:5 of Chapter 26, which updates solid waste container requirements. Staff is recommending that effective April 1, 2008, residents be allowed to purchase City-approved compost carts for their compost collection. These carts would be sold through local retailers.

As part of this change, resident-supplied cans will no longer be allowed for compost collection. The reason for this transition is a quality of life issue for the Solid Waste drivers. Attachment A shows the impact that transitioning to automated

collection for curbside refuse has had for the Solid Waste work force. Since this program was introduced in 2005, worker injuries and related worker comp costs have gone down drastically. Workers no longer have to lift overweight refuse cans, cans frozen to the ground, or those with materials frozen in the bottom. In addition, neighborhood appearances have been much improved by the elimination of broken refuse cans and loose lids.

Based on this experience, Solid Waste drivers have suggested adopting these improvements in the compost collection program. Under the new program, compost cans will be eliminated, but residents will still be allowed to place their materials in paper yard waste bags or bundles in addition to the compost carts. These changes will be communicated to the public through a combination of a Waste Watcher issue mailed in March, ads in the local papers, and press releases. ~~eliminating the cans is that they have been an ongoing source of injuries for collection workers. Issues include but are not limited to: overweight cans, materials frozen in the bottom of the cans, and cans frozen to the grounds. Residents will have the option of purchasing City-approved carts through local vendors.~~

Finally, Council approval is requested to amend Section 2:7 of Chapter 26, which will properly reference the newly opened Wheeler Service Center.

This ordinance is recommended to take effect ten (10) days after legal publication or on February 14, 2008, whichever is later.

Prepared by: Tom McMurtrie, Systems Planning Unit
Reviewed by: Sue F. McCormick, Public Services Area Administrator
Jayne Miller, Community Services Area Administrator
Approved by: Roger W. Fraser, City Administrator

(See attached Ordinance)