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From: huttonp@web.net
Sent: April 27, 2011 10:32 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: correspondencc re publoc works committee report to council tonight
Importance: High

{;ease bring the following to the attention of council at its meeting tonight Thank you

Dear Mayor Bratina and members of Council

I write to you formally on behalf of the Waste Reduction Task Force.

Let me begin by expressing our thanks for hearing our presentation at the Public Works Committee.

In this letter I hope to address a number of issues raised in that discussion and since that time.

Specifically we continue to support keeping the option of biweekly waste collection on the table for further discussion. While we would very much like Council to change the committee recommendation, we would be content with a referral of the issue back to committee to allow discussion that could build a broader community consensus.

It is essential that we not sew the seeds of division. Many legitimate concerns have been raised that need to be addressed. Lets take the time for further discussion and not feel we must conform to a rigid time-line.

Hopefully taking the time will give clarity to the issues, and show what we believe which is solving many of the concerns that have been raised need to be separated from moving ahead on new collection options including bu-weekly waste collection.

We agree that we need a better way to manage diapers and pet waste. Let's work to find it. That solution needs to be found without regard to other changes to collection.

Illegal dumping is an issue, and a big one for those who suffer the consequences. That needs to be recognized. But do we really know

whether adjustments to collection schedules are going to make it worse. Those who illegally dump will continue to do so and collectively, we need to examine those reasons and use the most effective tools of education and enforcement to mitigate the impact and moderate the behavior. Again something we must do whether the collection schedule is changed or not.

Sometimes we are too cautious, No one is suggesting that multi residential properties should be left off the hook. In fact if we thought about it, many small buildings may already be able to support similar shifts in pick up schedules. I know that mine could. With some hands on work, many more could do so.

We would like to call attention to something that we sometimes fear to acknowledge, Fundamental to the master plan is a belief created by citizens that we must change the way we go about many activities of our daily life. Any change is difficult. And if you aren't making a few people uncomfortable, than you aren't doing your job. The louder the complaints the more significant can be the accomplishment. The consequences economically, socially and environmentally of not acting are too much to contemplate We want to reward as much as we can those who have responded. We need to not react in haste when inevitably some push back. We need to make the tough decision that we need to use less and reuse more.

As our presentation indicated, the numbers show clearly that we need to do adjust and take what is the logical next step in developing the program.

Surely we can find a way to reduce truck trips now that the portions of the waste stream have been fundamentally altered. And increase our diversion in the process Deal with concerns but recognize the changes would represent minimal disruption for the many.

The Task Force has been discussing the new collection contracts since early last year. We would also share with you the attached report produced by task force members who respectfully suggest that the consideration of one stream vs two stream recycling may not be the best choice, There are costs involved and questionable benefits for diversion. That must be weighed against any revenues that could be gained in building facilities to match other municipalities.

This report was discussed with staff and we understood it would have been brought forward by staff to you as part of this process.

We present it for your information and to highlight that despite our position, we do not object to these options being on the table. In the spirit of collaboration, we see that our discussions need to have all options are given due consideration.

We still strongly believe that the option of bi-weekly garbage collection has merit and should be considered. In the end, we may not choose to go that way as a community. Let us however get the facts on the table and have a broader community discussion. Please do not shut down any potential option for continuing to increase the efficiency and success of our award winning waste management program.

Sincerely

Peter Hutton
Chair, Waste Reduction Task ForceS