

RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING COLLECTION RATESIF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (PRINT)

ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE (Optional)

Email (Optional)

✓ TERRY PARKER		parkerst2012@gmail.com
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✓ Lightning		
✓ Joe Walsh		

Subject: Testimony to the Portland City Council related to the proposed residential solid waste, recycling and yard debris collection rate increase, April, 18, 2018

Property taxes, bond measures, utility rate hikes such as for electricity, water and sewer, and yes garbage rates all have an impact on the costs of housing. A couple of dollars here, a few more dollars there, may be just the threshold that forces a senior citizen on a fixed income out of their long time home.

Given your declaration of a housing emergency, it is disingenuous to increase any tax or fee you have control over. It is unfair to landlords to require relocation expenses for renters if any part of a rent increase is due to escalating a city controlled tax or fee.

On your handout is an image of a receipt with a postmark date of May 1980 for garbage service for the preceding months of March and April. The total billing amount is \$6.00 - three dollars a month. This bill is for the same house I live in today.

Jimmy Schleiger Garbage Service was a small business with a modest sized truck. Jimmy the owner lived in the neighborhood. Unlike the current corporate operations where huge trucks pound the streets up one side and down the other making as many as eight passes on garbage day to pick up the various containers; Jimmy would stop his truck in the middle of the street, carry a big can up the driveway, dump the garbage from the customers can in to his, and then return to dump the garbage into the truck. A helper would do the same on the other side of the street. This was a time when service was first and for most as opposed to the city deciding which corporate entity will have a monopoly.

**JIMMY SCHLEIGER
GARBAGE SERVICE**
256-3511
P.O. BOX 20194 PORTLAND, ORE. 97220

THANK YOU
We appreciate your patronage

PAYMENT FOR MONTH MARKED + DUE
JAN. ☐ FEB. ☐ MAR. ☒ APR. ☒
MAY ☐ JUNE ☐ JULY ☐ AUG. ☐
SEPT. ☐ OCT. ☐ NOV. ☐ DEC. ☐

Extra Hauling _____
Total Amt. Due 6.00

DELINQUENT AFTER THE 20th
NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ARTICLES
LEFT ON OR NEAR GARBAGE CAN.

Handwritten notes:
Pd. 5/10/80
ck # 39
\$6.00

I have been clashing with Waste Management for over a year. During the winter of 2016 - 2017, Waste Management did not provide pickup service for three straight weeks due to poor weather conditions. I live on a flat street. Without studded tires or chains, I was out and about numerous times during that three week period. If this big faceless corporate entity doesn't supply the service for any length of time, they should be automatically adjusting customer invoices. I have not and will not pay for a service NOT received.

I believe a cap has been placed on the profits of electric utilities. The same should apply to corporate garbage service. Just say NO to this rate increase. Also require companies to not bill for a service not received. If the big companies don't like it, then just maybe Portland should go back to a small business model for residential garbage collection.

Respectively submitted,

Terry Parker, Northeast Portland

Portland Haulers Association

Testimony to Portland City Council *Residential Solid Waste and Recycling Rates* April 18, 2018

Introduction

Good afternoon Mayor Wheeler and members of the Council. I am Beth Vargas Duncan, Regional Director for Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association (ORRA).

As ORRA regional staff, I represent the Portland Hauler's Association (PHA) whose members provide the residential solid waste and recycling collection services within Portland.

- Every hauler providing residential collection service in Portland is a member of the PHA.
- PHA members work cooperatively with the city's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability staff to provide modern and efficient waste collection services that include garbage, recycling, at reasonable rates – as noted through the recent rate review process.

What happened and why are costs increasing? Tightening of China's policies limiting contamination to .5% for recycling materials created a systemic impact in the market. Materials that had once been collected curbside, delivered to processors to sort and exported to international markets are either no longer accepted or the costs of accepting them has increased significantly. As a result, processors have had to add staff, slow sorting processes, store materials, and search for new markets of recycling materials. Each of these activities add cost to the processing of recycling materials and these costs have escalated dramatically and quickly. Over the past six months the cost for haulers to drop off recycling materials for processing has rapidly increased about four fold to record levels. At the current rate, it is more cost effective to landfill these recycled materials than have them processed, but the Portland Haulers don't want to choose this option if at all possible.

Who's tackling this issue? Continuous collaboration among processors, haulers, local governments, Oregon DEQ, and other stakeholders, are working to identify methods to keep costs down, maximize the recycling of material, and avoid landfilling in both the short and long term.

What now? The expedited rate review process and rate adjustment will help the haulers successfully manage costs related to the unprecedented challenges presented and continue to fulfill their recycling services to Portland residential customers.

With the city council's passage of this expedited rate adjustment the needed for a larger increase later is minimized. This in turn will help the solid waste customers better handle

these additional costs and allow the haulers to successfully manage these unprecedented recycling challenges.

Call to action – Oregonians lead the nation in recycling. New changes in the market mean that for Oregon to continue to lead the way we all must adapt to these changes. There is a shared responsibility and if Oregonians continue to put materials that are not recyclable in curbside bins, the costs will continue to go up and recycling and recovery rates will not improve. This change in the market is a call to action for us all to improve even more and seek the latest information on what is recyclable and what should not be in the recycling cart; to put garbage in the garbage bin; to reduce contaminants and create clean streams that can be sold in the market and processed for reuse in new products.

For many decades, PHA haulers have demonstrated a strong commitment to providing excellent service to the residents of Portland while also producing sustainable results and consistent operational safety. We look forward to partnering with the city in the future and PHA appreciates that opportunity to serve Portland.

We ask that each one of you support Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission's recommendation and vote in favor of the expedited rate adjustment as proposed by staff. I am happy to answer any questions.

Thank you,



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Parsons, Susan

From: ethanthej@gmail.com on behalf of Ethan Jones <jonesethan78@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2018 4:38 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Testimony for April 18 hearing on garbage rates

Dear clerk,

I write to express my concern regarding the city's plan to raise garbage collection rates. I understand the reason has to do with China implementing new recycling rules that have increased the cost of our city's curbside recycling program.

My frustration stems from the city's continued insistence on twice-monthly garbage service. I understand *why* we have twice-monthly garbage service, and I'm all for recycling as much as possible. However, I really think that before we raise garbage rates, the Council should seriously consider going back to weekly trash collection. I'm barely willing to pay what I pay now for two pickups per month. I'm extremely unhappy about the notion of having my rate bumped further for such minimal service.

At least allow citizens the *choice* of weekly trash service at a higher cost than bi-monthly service. I'll gladly pay an extra amount per month if I can get all my cans emptied weekly.

Thank you.

Ethan Jones