

From: [Adam Phebus](#)
To: [Moore-Love, Karla](#)
Cc: [Brooke Leadbetter](#)
Subject: Request to Raise Concern at City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, March 2, 2020 11:27:22 AM

Hi Karla,

I'm hoping you can help me understand the best way to have a concern considered at a city council meeting. I would like the council to enforce commercial trash pickup times during normal business hours; at least in the Pearl.

I live in the Pearl and have several sleepless nights each week due to commercial trash pickup that slams dumpsters at all hours of the night. Last night it was 2:45am and 4:30am. I cannot afford the continued loss in job performance and health due to sleeplessness. I'm starting to get anxiety before bed knowing that suffering is imminent.

It seems absurd to me that in an area that is predominately multi-family residential and is very densely populated, that such a trash pickup schedule is allowed. Considering I can see 4 large multi-family buildings within a block from my window alone, this is probably torturing hundreds of people.

Further, I imagine that the residential buildings in the Pearl, which are relatively quite expensive compared to the rest of the city, provide a significant share of the property taxes for the city.

This is an area with very little street traffic, and it's a grid which provides many different routes for commuters, so the argument that pickup during normal business hours would increase traffic here seems silly. In addition, there are always tradeoffs, and I would imagine that the residents would accept a minor inconvenience for better sleep.

Please let me know the best way to have this issue seriously considered. I will do whatever it takes, and pursue it to my fullest extent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,
Adam Phebus

Request of Adam Phebus to address Council regarding commercial trash pickup times (Communication)

May 6, 2020

Placed on File

Filed 4/28/2020

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

Keelan
By McClymont Deputy

Digitally signed by Keelan
McClymont
Date: 2020.04.28 09:29:18
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COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Vacant		
3. Hardesty		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		

From: [Adam Phebus](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Meeting - 5.6.20 // Nighttime Commercial Trash Pickup
Date: Thursday, May 7, 2020 10:05:44 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for your time and attention yesterday. Below is my meeting testimony. I hope you can help. This issue has really soured my view of the Pearl. I wouldn't be surprised if it leads to lawsuits for non-disclosure of a nuisance in real estate transactions.

Best,
Adam

I'm here to talk with you about a public health hazard that I believe is costing taxpayers and property owners dearly in neighborhoods such as the Pearl District, where I live.

The hazard that I'm referring to is the nighttime commercial trash pickup that has somehow persisted here for many years despite the complaints of so many residents who have been subjected to the deleterious effects of sleepless nights.

To make matters worse, there are multiple trash collection companies that pickup on different schedules in the exact same area, causing more sporadic noise and excessive damage to the roads.

This probably sounds like hyperbole, so for context you should know that my fiancé and I live in an upper floor unit in a newer concrete and steel high-rise.

We are woken up by slamming dumpsters 2-3 times per night, 4 days/week, every week. That's 4 very stressful and sleepless nights every week without fail. To top it off, our bodies have adjusted to this new norm so we now wake up in the middle of the night filled with adrenaline on the 3 off days as well.

There's no respite, and we simply cannot afford the continued loss in job performance and health due to sleeplessness.

I've spoken with our building manager, as well as several residents of other buildings, including HOA board members of nearby luxury condos and the suffering seems to be widespread.

There are large multi-family buildings on nearly every block around us. With a population of about 6,000 in an area that's less than 1/2 a square mile, this is most certainly torturing hundreds if not thousands of the residents in this neighborhood alone.

To continue to allow such a hazardous trash pickup schedule in a predominately residential and high density neighborhood seems like a flagrant disregard for the health and welfare of your citizens.

For a quick refresh on the detrimental effects of poor sleep, the first page of your google search will let you hear it directly from medical leaders such as Harvard, Johns Hopkins, and the NIH. With that said, I'll move on to other costs associated with this issue.

I imagine the property taxes generated by the residential units in the Pearl make up a nice share of revenue for the city. Not only can nuisances like this lower demand for a property resulting in a loss of money for both homeowners and the city, but the occupants are contributing to help this city thrive, so it seems that they've earned the right to adequate rest.

In addition, many studies have been done showing the exponential road damage caused by multiple heavy garbage trucks traversing the same streets. This added damage means that taxpayers are repairing the roads more often than necessary, at great expense. You're probably thinking that a single provider system will create a monopoly, but other progressive cities such as Los Angeles use a zoned system, with one provider per district, to mitigate this issue.

The trash companies argue that commercial pickup during residential hours would increase traffic, but in a predominately residential neighborhood like the Pearl, there is very little street traffic and it's a grid with many different routes for commuters, so this seems like lazy reasoning.

In closing, I ask that you continue to protect our health, taxpayer dollars, and property values by restricting commercial trash pickup times in neighborhoods such as the pearl to residential pickup times, since these neighborhoods have become predominantly residential. There are always two sides to every coin, and I would imagine that the valued members of our community would accept a minor inconvenience in exchange for better wellbeing.