

January 12, 2016
Springfield ICON Coalition
2016 S 4th St.
Springfield, IL 62703



Re: Waste Hauling and Recycling

Dear Mayor Jim Langfelder:

Members of Springfield ICON, Inner City Older Neighborhoods, are writing in support of changes to the current waste hauling practice in Springfield, IL.

All residential properties in the City of Springfield are required to have garbage service. However, the City's Public Works Department estimates that over 3,000 don't, and among them are those who leave their garbage for others to pick up.

What is seen as a basic sanitary and health-preserving service of almost every city in the country has been delegated in Springfield to private waste hauling companies whose goals are to maximize profit, remain in business, and to do business in a way that supports their goals.

The current process has multiple negative effects on our City:

- Our tax dollars are used to try to identify those garbage violators and to enforce a law that's been on the books for years but, due to the current arrangement with haulers, is unenforceable.
- Attempts to enforce are a drain on the time and energy of city employees who reconcile reports from haulers, attempt to identify those without service, force their frequently short-lived compliance, and ultimately pick up the garbage and dispose of it. The time-consuming and expensive efforts to try to address the illegal actions of a small number of residents wastes taxpayer money and resources, and taxpayers and concerned citizens pay for picking up after these "garbage scofflaws".
- Neighborhoods without adequate trash service suffer increased crime, difficulty attracting new residents, and decreased property values – and City property tax revenue also declines. Garbage that the city doesn't have time or resources to remove also requires ongoing effort by neighborhood leaders who work hard to keep their neighborhoods cleaner, attractive and viable.
- A dirty city is less attractive to prospective business owners looking to relocate to Springfield, residential property buyers, new hires looking to relocate, and to residential and commercial developers.

ICON believes that City government is responsible for the health of all residents by removing garbage and waste from all areas of the City regularly, proactively, and efficiently.

The City of Springfield should get out of the business of being trash police and of collecting garbage that private haulers refuse to pick up.

ICON members are not opposed to a rate increase for haulers, but, in exchange, **we call for the City Council, under the leadership of Mayor Langfelder, to end Springfield's decades-old problem with garbage.**

On October 26, 2015, ICON members voted to ask the City Council to make four changes:

- 1. Provide regular garbage service to every residential property in the City. One solution is to add garbage service collection on CWLP bills so all residents with utility service pay for garbage service.**
- 2. Set specific standards for collection, including cans with attached hinged lids. Private waste hauling companies desiring to be licensed as haulers on behalf of the City would meet those standards; haulers not choosing to meet City standards would be refused a license.**
- 3. Set standardized rates for all residential garbage service provided by City licensed haulers. This could include flexibility to provide several levels of service from small to large.**
- 4. Provide incentives to recycle and reduce the volume of garbage going to landfills.**

ICON calls for the City of Springfield to claim its authority and responsibility for this most basic service. Improvements to waste collection will increase Springfield's ability to keep its neighborhoods clean and healthy, preserve property values and tax revenue, attract new businesses and residents to the city, present guests and tourists with a positive image of the city, and make wise use of taxpayer resources.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol A Kneeder, Chair, Springfield Inner City Older Neighborhoods PAC
Representing ICON PAC Members
Cc: Springfield Aldermen