

From: Jody Smith Williams [<mailto:jody@wschiro.com>]

Sent: Monday, July 06, 2015 4:10 PM

To: Cheri Smith

Subject: No to twice weekly trash pick-up

Jody

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

There is no legitimate reason to go back to twice a week trash pick-up. Citing health and safety concerns is a red herring. For the majority of Key West residents, the transition to once a week pick-up has been an easy one. As former recycling manager Will Thompson reported, after the first two months, customer complaints about the new service dropped to zero. For those who feel the need for additional trash pick-up, they are clearly not recycling, reducing and preparing trash as they should be.

The city has put much time, effort and money into improving its solid waste system, with the stated goal of adopting best practices to reduce the volume of waste and be more responsible with its resources. The resolution to go back to twice a week trash service would be going back to the bad old days, at great unnecessary expense to tax payers. Those of us who are happy with the current service should not be forced to subsidize others' unwillingness to reduce their need for additional trash pick-up, which is really very easy.

If the city insists on giving people the option to have additional trash service, the cost should be borne by those who request it. A Pay As You Throw system would do this, and would enable those who conserve to save money on their service. Pay As You Throw is included in the city's Solid Waste Master plan and provides a financial incentive for residents to practice conservation. Cities with Pay As You Throw have consistently higher recycling rates and lower volume of garbage overall. The system works.

I'm also opposed to the idea of a citizen's referendum on this issue. You, our leaders, were elected to lead - to encourage and guide your constituents to do the "right thing." In this case, the right thing for the environment is also the right thing for the city's and residents' budget. Only Waste Management stands to gain from this proposal, which will set us back decades.

Sincerely,

Jody Smith Williams

Dr. Ross Williams

Chiropractic . nutrition . functional medicine

1217 White St.

Key West, FL 33040

305-292-7222

www.wschiro.com

Open Letter to the Key West City Commissioners,

As a tax payer and an actively concerned resident of Key West I must say the proposed return to twice weekly trash pick-up is a misguided idea and a step backwards. It is a wrong-headed move from a monetary as well as an environmental standpoint. Twice the garbage truck noise. Twice the garbage truck exhaust/pollution. Twice the garbage truck traffic hold-ups, AND if the figures published are correct this thoughtless and regressive action would cost me and my fellow Key Westers an additional \$41,326 a month. This is on the heels of Waste Management being awarded a contract that was \$14 million dollars more than Advanced Waste. Waste Management also now controls and manages our Transfer Station at a fee double the amount that it cost the City to manage it. None of this makes any sense. Try putting your fresh animal and fish waste in your freezer until the night before pick-up, recycle more and if your can stinks, wash it. Please vote to continue with the cost effective and sensible once a week pick-up. Thank you.

Alex Symington

Key West

From: Arlo Haskell [<mailto:arlohaskell@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2015 8:35 AM

To: Craig Cates; Teri Johnston; Clayton Lopez; Mark Rossi; Billy Wardlow; Jimmy Weekley; Tony Yaniz

Cc: Cheri Smith

Subject: don't move backwards, keep once-a-week garbage collection

To the Mayor and the Commissioners of the City of Key West:

Good morning. I urge you to reject Commissioner Yaniz's proposal to return to twice-weekly garbage collection. This regressive proposal would bring additional traffic, noise, and expense to all your voters, for the benefit of a few who refuse to take personal responsibility for the quantity of waste that they create.

I hear talk of a voter referendum on this issue. Please don't go down that road. We elect you to govern and do what's best for the city, not to throw up your hands and toss decisions about basic city services back on the voters.

Please vote to keep once-a-week pickup.

Thank you for your service to Key West,

Arlo Haskell
716 Love Lane
Key West, FL 33040

From: Richard Boettger [<mailto:rd.boettger@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2015 10:43 AM
To: Cheri Smith; Cynthia Edwards; jody@wschiro.com
Subject: Public comment

To the Commission from Rick Boettger, 1402 Olivia #1, Key West:

Do not add the extra day without first getting some facts about the supposed “stench” of rotting garbage. As I have written repeatedly, I have twice gone out early in the Meadows and Old Town just ahead of the trucks and found NO problems—a total of seven flies one day in the entire area.

The real stench I smelled yesterday riding behind a waste truck. When emptied into the truck and crushed, then the bag-wrapped organics do indeed smell. So by adding the extra pickup, you actually make things worse. Wrapped garbage that does not smell in its bin gets crushed and exposed to our nostrils, along with the usual noise, congestion, and exhaust of the waste trucks.

We also have twice as many days with unsightly bins out on the streets. So we have more smell, congestion, bins on the street, and extra cost by adding this unnecessary day. Do not do so without a survey of how many bins in your district really are a problem. We here in Jimmy’s district would be worse off with an extra pickup. Actually count how many problems you have. If it is only one in fifty homes has a problem, does it make any sense for the other 98% of us to pay and suffer for their poorly wrapped garbage?

The only real beneficiaries of this is, admit it, Waste Management. Do not add the extra pickup.

From: "steve russ" <steve.russ1@att.net>

Date: July 20, 2015 at 10:23:55 AM EDT

To: "Billy Wardlow" <bwardlow@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, "Clayton Lopez" <clopez@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, "Craig Cates" <ccates@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, "Jimmy Weekley" <jweekley@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, "Mark Rossi" <mrossi@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, "Teri Johnston" <terijohnston@att.net>, <tyaniz@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

Cc: <jscholl@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, <csmith@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

Dear Mayor Cates and City Commissioners:

I am against twice weekly garbage pick-up for all of the environmental, noise and cost issues that have already been raised by many others, but I am a firm believer in free-choice and free-enterprise. One of the benefits of the City having contracted with a large, competent and community-spirited company like Waste Management is their capacity to provide cost-effective flexible waste pick-up. Surely twice weekly garbage removal could be offered and billed directly to those homeowners who desire the service. This seems like an excellent solution providing the service to those who require it and saving the rest of us a \$500,000 expense we do not want or need.

No costly referendum and no unhappy constituents.

Sincerely,

Steve Russ
3220 Riviera Drive
Key West

From: Stephen Hatch [<mailto:keywesthatchman@gmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2015 10:35 AM

To: Craig Cates <ccates@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Teri Johnston <tjohnston@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Clayton Lopez <clopez@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Billy Wardlow <wardlow@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Jimmy Weekley <jweekley@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Tony Yaniz <tyaniz@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

Cc: Cheri Smith <csmith@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; James K. Scholl <jscholl@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

Subject: Twice A Week Garbage Collection

To: Key West City Commission Members

Subject: City of Key West Garbage Collection

The City Commission is now contemplating throwing out the one good feature in the current solid waste master plan and going back to twice weekly curbside garbage collection. For what, for a few residents that complain of flies in and around their garbage cans because they do not use sealed plastic bags like the majority of the residents. Flies and maggots will not disappear from garbage left out three or four days versus six days if proper disposal methods aren't used. We tripled our recycling percentage with the one day a week trash collection and everyone knows adding another day for garbage collection will only cause our 21% recycling rate to collapse back to the dismal 7% we had previously.

This additional service would add a half million dollars (\$496,000) to our budget each year or two and a half million dollars (\$2,500,000) over the next five years for an unnecessary garbage service. Two and a half million dollars is a lot of additional tax money to spend for a service of such low priority. The deplorable condition of our streets and infrastructure should be the focus for any additional future spending in our city. Garbage and boats aren't even on the same page with these higher priority items.

Then there is the issue of the additional noise, pollution and traffic disruption that an extra garbage pickup day will add to our narrow and busy streets. We don't need this or want to spend a second day hunting down our garbage can and picking up the garbage that unfortunately gets spilled in the street on every collection day.

If recycling was a priority in Key West and we want to increase our percentage of participation, we would not only be collecting garbage just one day a week but putting a higher emphasis on recycling by charging according to the size of the garbage can. The bigger the garbage can the more one pays. This will further increase recycling and lower the amount of garbage we have to dispose of by incineration or burying in another mount trashmore.

We concern ourselves with the people working in the low paying service industry and yet we continue to spend more money and pass increasing higher spending budgets (increased taxes) when personal income along with inflation has remained stagnant. The only inflation we see seems to come from government services spending and our government needs to learn how to become more efficient and eliminate unnecessary and low priority project spending.

Please vote NO and keep the garbage collection at one noisy, polluting, congested day a week.

The City Clerk is requested to read this letter into the record when this issue is addressed by the Commission.

Thanks for your consideration,
Stephen M. Hatch Key West District IV Resident

“As the person primarily tasked with implementing the City of Key West transition to one day trash, recycling, and yard waste collection, and as a longtime resident of Key West and of Commissioner Yaniz’s district, I must respectfully disagree with a need to return to two day trash collection. The current single day collection has been working exactly as intended almost from day one. There were some much anticipated “bumps” in the first few months, which are to be expected with any major change in a City’s routines. But they passed quickly as the good people of Key West quickly adapted to the new system. Recycling rates soared; the City began to immediately realize significant savings due to not paying for the haul out to the mainland of recyclable materials, instead of paying the \$79.00 a ton we had been paying for trash haul out. Our streets were quieter and safer by not having Waste Management trucks throughout town several days a week.

But as in any society, you will always find a few residents that resist change for any number of reasons, including lack of understanding of the benefit of this program to the entire community. To this I would humbly suggest it may be far better and far more cost effective to attempt to educate these few as to how to properly handle their trash, as opposed to imposing on the entire population a tax increase to pay for a service that the majority of residents do not want or need.

With all due respect to Commissioner Yaniz, no one has inspected more trash carts in this town than I have over the last several years. I have found that the vast majority of residents have adopted the single day collection very well, with almost no odor or fly issues. And considering my home is just a few streets away from the Commissioner’s, and remembering my position, it is quite likely I would have noticed these concerns. I urge all Commissioners to reject returning to two day a week trash collection for the public health, safety, and the financial concerns of the responsible Citizens of Key West.

Will Thompson
Former Solid Waste Coordinator for The City of Key West.