

CHRIS STONE
Kolong Kodok - Frog Pond
1608 Von Phister
Key West FL 33040

August 5, 2014

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

**Regarding TRASH collection -
Number One priority:**

Continue ONCE A WEEK COLLECTION and KEEP TRANSFER STATION.

REASONS:

1. City residents are very capable of *properly wrapping* food-based “garbage” to keep - even fish odors below an objectionable level.
2. a. Once a week pick up keeps our rates more affordable for the vast majority of households, and does not burden those on a fixed income with charges they cannot afford.
b. As these charges are now included in homeowners property tax bills, those who may be on a fixed income or otherwise unable to afford the increase face the possibility of losing their homes for nonpayment of these taxes.
3. TRANSFER STATION: Ongoing operation of the scales will still require the presence of two full time City employees; and we will still be responsible for all costs related to their pay and benefits. Liability issues for these employees are presently covered, and would continue to be covered by City Liability insurance.
4. Residents will not be subjected to a 100% increase in noise and traffic congestion caused by an additional and unnecessary weekly pick up.
5. City officials have noted that it is Waste Management’s stated intention to cut back their pick up schedule to Monday thru Friday only. This could easily result in the second pick up occurring only two days after the initial pick up.
6. Every waste management professional interviewed has stated returning to twice a week collection will SUBSTANTIALLY reduce the amount of valuable recyclable material the City will collect, decreasing income from this activity, and increasing degradation of the environment.

OPTION:

As the large majority of trash cans observed on the street awaiting pick up are YARD WASTE containers, there appears to be a greater need to pick up yard waste than one small can of garbage.

I hope you will consider these points in making your decision tonight.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Chris Stone