



MEMORANDUM

Diane N. Tradd
Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

R. Eric Slagle
Director of Development Services

Shaun Shanahan
Building Commissioner

TO: Kevin Murphy, City Manager
Diane Tradd, DPD Director
William Taylor, Police Superintendent

FROM: R. Eric Slagle, Director of Development Services

RE: **MOTION BY COUNCILOR MERCIER - REQ. CITY MGR. INCREASE CITY INPUT TO ADDRESS THE MASSIVE AMOUNT OF ILLEGAL DUMPING IN THE CITY, ESPECIALLY IN CENTRALVILLE.**

MOTION BY COUNCILOR BELANGER - REQ. CITY MGR. ADDRESS DUMPING ALONG THE FIRST STREET CORRIDOR.

This memorandum addresses the requests from Councilors Mercier and Belanger regarding illegal dumping in Centralville along the First Street corridor. As the City Council is aware, this area suffers from bouts of illegal dumping, which becomes highly visible in the winter months.

It is important to point out the challenges of illegal dumping enforcement in this area. The steep topography from First Street Blvd. up to First Street and further up to the residential streets such as Third Street and Durant Street provides numerous locations for unsavory individuals to quickly and illicitly dump items over a guardrail and down a hill. First Street itself is a curved street, making for literally dozens of spots for dumping out of sight from other areas along the street. For many months out of the year, foliage screens First Street from the residences further up the hill, so neighbors cannot witness dumping that does take place. Furthermore, First Street alone, from the intersection of First and Read Streets to the Wastewater Utility extends more than 4,000 linear feet, or over $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile.

Given these challenges, the City takes steps to prevent as much illegal dumping in this area as possible. When illegal dumping is reported, Development Services staff investigates the actual items located onsite to see if there is any identifying information located on the items. At times we have had success with this method by discovering trash with an address, bill, or some other information that specifically identifies the owner. Unfortunately, items on the property often have no identifying information. The second part of the investigation involves the installation of hidden cameras with motion detectors to try and video capture license plate information of any illegal dumpers. This part of the investigation can take a longer period of time, as our attempts to capture images of any perpetrators can be hit or miss. For security reasons, we do not publicize the dates of our video investigation or locations of any hidden video cameras, though we do try to keep them onsite for one to two weeks at a time. We typically cycle cameras through trouble spots, because when we begin to enforce against one spot, other unmonitored areas may become more of a problem.

Development Services has had four cameras devoted to this corridor in the fall of 2016, and detected no illegal dumping on those cameras. For both employee safety and inclement weather concerns, we do not regularly operate cameras during the winter months. However, in the spring, Development Services will undertake an aggressive enforcement plan targeting illegal dumping sites that have been reported as problems over the last several months.

Furthermore, please be informed that the Police Department is currently working with a technical representative from a state contractor to develop the best solution for permanent cameras to monitor this remote site. A technician was onsite on March 30 to evaluate the area and find the optimal location to place the camera(s), i.e.

desired site line, signal transfer and physical equipment mounting. The Police Department is considering a 3G or 4G solution that will allow wireless video download in a covert manner.

The vendor expects to have the site evaluation completed in the first week of April and a proposal by mid-April.

ES

3/30/2017