



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**

**Department of Public Works**

**123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3800**

**www.ci.kirkland.wa.us**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** David Ramsay, City Manager

**From:** Elaine Borjeson, Solid Waste Coordinator  
Daryl Grigsby, Public Works Director

**Date:** July 6, 2006

**Subject:** LETTER TO KIRKLAND DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION RESPONDING TO GARBAGE COMPLAINT REGARDING CITY CANS IN DOWNTOWN KIRKLAND

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council authorize the Mayor to sign a letter responding to Mr. Dick Beazell and the Kirkland Downtown Association (KDA).

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Mr. Dick Beazell, Executive Director of the Kirkland Downtown Association, submitted the attached correspondence to the Mayor, City Council and the City Manager detailing concerns about the dirty appearance and insufficient garbage collection from City of Kirkland trash cans in the downtown area. Mr. Beazell's correspondence asks for immediate attention and resolution to these issues. The Public Works Department has arranged for coverage for the remaining summer of 2006 and more timely arrangements will be made for following years to ensure that this problem does not resurface.

Attachment: 1- Letter from KDA to Council



111 Park Lane, Kirkland, WA 98033

Phone: 425.893.8766 Fax: 425.893.9626  
www.kirklanddowntown.org

June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006

To: Dave Ramsay, City Manager  
Jim Lauinger, Mayor  
Joan McBride, Deputy Mayor  
Mary Alyce Burleigh, City Council  
Tom Hodges, City Council  
Jessica Greenway, City Council  
Dave Asher, City Council  
Bob Sternoff, City Council

From: Dick Bezell, Director, and the Kirkland Downtown Association

Re: Garbage Collection

**RECEIVED**

JUN 27 2006

**CITY OF KIRKLAND  
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE**

It is apparent that there is insufficient garbage collection in the downtown core area, particularly on weekends, as evidenced by the fact that myself and 4 volunteers, Kellie Jordan, Dennis Brown, Penny Sweet and Wendy Calvert spent 2 hrs on Saturday night 6/24/06, collecting overflow trash from the garbage cans along Lake Street, Kirkland Avenue, Central Way and on Park Lane. I received a phone call from Dennis Brown who was observing the frustration of visitors and citizens on a beautiful Saturday night unable to dispose of garbage and being confronted with overflowing cans and garbage strewn about all along Kirkland Avenue. We emptied the cans and cleaned up the overflow.

Particularly overflowing was the can across the street from Ben and Jerry's by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street boat dock. It was apparent that this can was used by boaters. This can is the closest can to the dock and was again overflowing on Sunday morning. It would be prudent to put cans closer to and on the dock and have the parks department manage it since the dock is a street end park and gets used heavily during the hot summer months.

Imagine the image of our downtown--of our city-- the following sunny Sunday had we not picked it up.

At issue here is that the lack of receptacles breeds complacency where proper trash disposal is concerned and an image of a city that doesn't care about the face it shows to its own residents, let alone visitors and tourists.

Further issues are potential health implications as that garbage is so easily spread about by birds, rats and other nighttime visitors.

The cans themselves are hazards. Many are rusted through with rotting garbage, diapers and filth permanently encrusted in them. It would appear they have never been cleaned beyond emptying. It was truly a disgusting job.

I have included pictures demonstrating the mass of garbage we picked up and had to unload at Everest Park. It was the closest dumpster we could find and access.

This is an issue that needs serious attention and resolution immediately as we start the summer tourism and outdoor season. Please contact me as soon as possible so we can work together to address this issue.

Sincerely,



Dick Bezell  
Executive Director  
Kirkland Downtown Association



CC: KDA Board

**DRAFT**

July 18, 2006

Dick Bezell  
Executive Director  
Kirkland Downtown Association  
111 Park Lane  
Kirkland, WA 98033

RE: GARBAGE COLLECTION FROM CITY TRASH RECEPTACLES IN DOWNTOWN KIRKLAND

Dear Mr. Bezell:

Thank you for your letter dated June 27, 2006 describing problems with overflowing garbage cans in the Central Business District in downtown Kirkland. The City appreciates the efforts that you, Kellie Jordan, Dennis Brown, Penny Sweet and Wendy Calvert put into collecting garbage from City trash receptacles on a beautiful Saturday night. Brimming trash cans are not the image that Kirkland wants to present to anyone in the downtown community or elsewhere, and steps are already in place to ensure that this does not happen again.

The trash collection problem occurred this year because of a change in summer collection practices from previous years. The garbage cans are emptied twice each week year-round by Waste Management at no cost to the City. Waste Management is required to empty them once per week by contract. In previous summers, more frequent collection requests were made on an on-call basis, also at no charge, but this year an attempt was made to set up regular three and/or four day collection from June through September. Waste Management decided that this increased collection service needed to be fee based to cover their costs of providing the extra service. Based on the newly established fees, Waste Management was not authorized for additional collection days, and plans were discussed but not yet implemented for City staff to collect the garbage during the summer months.

This year, beginning July 1, 2006, seasonal staff from the Street Department will collect garbage on Saturday afternoons for three hours each weekend until the middle of September. They will work eight hour shifts both Saturdays and Sundays on the special event weekends of the Fourth of July, Summerfest and the Car Show. They will also monitor and clean the cans. The Parks Department staff will collect the garbage at the boat dock, and they are currently working with the owners of the adjacent dock to get more receptacles on site. Increased funding for garbage collection in the Central Business District will be included in the budget process for future years to cover the costs of this service to the community. In future years, the increased collection schedule will begin on Memorial Day weekend and continue through the second weekend in September.

In the event that there is ever a situation after normal business hours in which garbage is overflowing from City cans, please call Police Dispatch at (425) 587-3400, and they will notify Public Works standby

Letter to Kirkland Downtown Association

July 18, 2006

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personnel who will take care of the problem. If you have questions or concerns about garbage or recycling collection services, please contact Elaine Borjeson, Solid Waste Coordinator, at (425) 587-3804 or [eborjeson@ci.kirkland.wa.us](mailto:eborjeson@ci.kirkland.wa.us).

Sincerely,

KIRKLAND CITY COUNCIL

James. L. Lauinger

Mayor

cc: David Ramsay, City Manager  
Daryl Grigsby, Public Works Director  
John Hopfauf, Street Department Manager  
Jason Filan, Parks Operations Manager  
Gene Markle, Captain, Police Department  
Elaine Borjeson, Solid Waste Coordinator