

From: rocktrash@comcast.net [mailto:rocktrash@comcast.net]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2007 8:17 AM  
To: rocktrash@comcast.net  
Subject: FW: re: Me, Myself and I and trash

Hi All,

I'm forwarding an email that I received and my response, as an FYI, and to encourage everyone to continue to be cordial in pressing our case for once-per-week service. Sometimes people get carried away when they discuss public policy. We can help our case by refraining from attacks on others who disagree with our position.

I didn't sense any change in the Council's views at last night's Forum. A few of us spoke again in favor of optional once-per-week service, and the Council's response were basically the same as last week. The supporters of twice per week service seem to want to cast this as a debate between once or twice per week service and do not want to address our proposal for optional once per week service.

I plan to continue pressing our case. Last night I mentioned that I've printed another 250 flyers and plan to distribute them to the Monument Park area. If anyone would like to help, let me know. I can do it Sunday afternoon, or the following weekend. I think it would be useful to increase the number of people who are pestering the Council, so that they know that the issue isn't going to fade away.

Regards,

Art Stigile  
312 W Edmonston Dr  
rocktrash@comcast.net

----- Forwarded Message: -----  
From: rocktrash@comcast.net  
To: <lmgb@earthlink.net>, "Phyllis Marcuccio" <marcu@erols.com>, "Anne Robbins" <AnneR41@hotmail.com>, "Robert Dorsey" <rdorsey@rockvillemd.gov>  
Cc: "Lora Meisner" <lmgb@earthlink.net>, "Gazette Reporter" <wparish@gazette.net>  
Subject: re: Me, Myself and I and trash  
Date: Tue, 17 Apr 2007 05:09:27 +0000

Dear Lora,

Since you cc'd me, I will respond to a few of your comments.

First, you must not have read the Rocktrash flyer or my proposal, because it does not attempt to impose one trash system on everyone. Instead, it would allow each household to determine for itself once or twice per week service, and then pay for that level of service. The only proposals that would impose a one size fits all

approach are the twice-per-week solution that the majority of the Council voted for, and the once-per-week service proposed by City staff.

I'm amazed that having a public discussion about public policy is necessarily divisive. The underlying issue divides us, but it needn't become divisive. As I said in my flyer, which I'm attaching, I've encouraged everyone to chime into the discussion, even if they disagree with my position, because I think that it makes our community stronger and improves our public policies. It's certainly what our founding fathers intended, and it's why I thought the decision to slow down the train and allow for public comment was correct. I know that I learned from the ensuing discussion, and it changed my views a bit.

The way to keep the discussion from being divisive is to respect opposing views. Unfortunately, much of our public discourse seems to have degenerated into name calling and questioning the motives of those who disagree with us. I disagree with the position that Council members Dorsey, Marcuccio and Robbins have taken on the trash service because it doesn't serve the needs of all residents, and it imposes an unfair tax on those of us who are willing to do the most to cut the cost of trash removal. But that's a policy disagreement. I've never questioned their motives, I respect their service, and I'll bet each of them are interesting and loads of fun.

I moved to Rockville last year. I can tell you that what attracted me is the small town feel of the City, the housing, the neighborhoods, the high school, the progress I'm seeing in the downtown area, and the large Chinese community, since my wife is Chinese. Twice per week trash service was not on my list of attractions. In fact, I wasn't aware that anyone in Montgomery County still received twice weekly service. And if premium service means expensive service that I don't need, then that's also not an attraction, since I tend to be a frugal person by nature.

Thanks for copying me.

Art Stigile  
312 W Edmonston Dr  
rocktrash@comcast.net

----- Original message -----  
From: "Lora Meisner" <lmgb@earthlink.net>

Here's a question for you, and please respond: How does the city justify spending \$1.3-1.5 million for a new trash system when the whole premise for changing systems is a supposed \$800,000 deficit sometime in the future? Please answer this question. So far, NO ONE has. (Hey, Warren, here's where being a reporter is supposed to come in handy.)

Why is it that the entire discussion/pressure regarding

once a week trash vs. our present system is designed to pit neighbor against neighbor? This is not healthy for democracy. I've been reading the discussion coming from the RockTrash group and their entire premise is "if it works for us, then everyone should accept this." Well, if that isn't the most selfish and narcissistic attitude, I don't know what is. Or better yet, the wonderful Republican attitude of let everyone choose what they want--yes, let's turn the entire system into chaos and no one wins. Once again, who pays for the trash bag left on someone's curb and it's not theirs--what a way to build community.

Let's get real, we know who's behind this recent upsurge of elite Hungerford residents--Hoffman, Giammo and Ullery--they want to change the system and they were not even interested initially in hearing what the public had to say. Since when in a democracy do 280 households (80% positive response from 350 surveys) decide what's good for the other 14,0000?

Here's something else that's not mentioned in RockTrash's discussion--until the city began this fiasco with the pilot program, no one was complaining about our trash system. A major reason is that we pay premium taxes to live in the City of Rockville and we taxpayers feel that we should be getting premium service. What happened to our premium services????

OK, if you want a real pilot program, then let's just go to a once a week system with our existing equipment etc. and see how people react? If you really want to have a true pilot program, then have the entire city take part in it for 3-4 months and see what happens.

Personally, I think people are disgusted enough right now--cost overruns on town center, replacing town center pavers (what's this mess going to cost us?), over-development, proposed once-a-week trash, and we pay premium taxes--that I think I could gather enough signatures for a referendum in November's election to float the question of revoking our city charter and becoming part of Montgomery County. Everyone wants to save money, well, here's the way. Revoke the charter and we'll all pay fewer taxes and get our once a week trash system.

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Lora Meisner  
Rockville, MD  
301-762-7377

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From: "Lora Meisner" <lmgb@earthlink.net>

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