

## Comments To Mayor and Council, July 16, 2007

My name is Art Stigile, and I live at 312 W Edmonston Drive.

At the July 2nd meeting, Council member Hoffman offered a common sense solution to the trash issue that was fair to all residents. It was a solution that folks in the ROCKTRASH network have been advocating for the past 4 months, and I felt like jumping up and yelling "Thank you, Susan Hoffman!"

I could not be more disappointed with the discussion that followed. It was as though the rest of the City Council had not listened or learned a thing since last December, and it pretty much dashed any hope of mine that you can agree on a fair solution.

The proposal was obvious and simple. It provided twice-weekly pick-up to residents who are willing to pay the extra cost, and it eliminated the \$100 tax that is unfairly charged to residents who only want once-weekly pick-up. Each resident could get the service that he or she needs and is willing to pay for. But you retreated to the same old arguments that we have heard since December and voted instead to continue over-charging residents who want to economize.

We do not take the issue of fairness lightly. The vision of a just government gave birth to this country. It's one of those shared values that define us as Americans. Indeed, each time we place our hands on our hearts and pledge allegiance to the flag of this great Nation, we end with the solemn promise "with justice for all."

For months, I have pointed out the unfairness of taxing residents who don't want and don't need twice-weekly service, and then using the tax to subsidize residents who want the more expensive service. I don't oppose twice-weekly service. I only oppose the tax subsidy. I have repeatedly challenged you to justify the tax subsidy, but no one has answered the challenge.

So tonight I'm asking for help from City residents. Tonight I'm offering a \$100 reward to the City resident who can justify the tax subsidy. That's \$100, folks, the same amount as the tax that this Council just voted to continue. The person who provides the most persuasive justification will win the prize.

Your submission must answer two questions. First, why should the City subsidize the trash service of any resident who wants twice-weekly pick-up? Second, why should the subsidy only be paid by residents who want the cheapest trash service, and not paid all City residents?

Send your submissions to me by email. My email address is [rocktrash@comcast.net](mailto:rocktrash@comcast.net). I will announce the result at the first Citizen's Forum in September. You can find additional info at my website at [www.rocktrash.org](http://www.rocktrash.org). ROCKTRASH is one word. Don't worry if you can't remember the address. Just Google the word "ROCKTRASH".