

## Remarks, April 9<sup>th</sup> Citizen's Forum

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

At the last Citizen's Forum on March 19<sup>th</sup>, I described your tentative decision on trash service as the most expensive, least environmentally responsible, and least fair option. I also pointed out that mandatory, twice-per-week service imposes a tax on residents who prefer weekly pickup, and this tax unfairly subsidizes residents who want twice the service.

We obviously aren't talking about great sums of money. The cost savings would probably be \$5-\$7 per month. But let's put that into perspective. The annual savings are about the same as the \$70 tax rebate that generated such animated discussion at the last Council meeting. It seems odd that the same passion for an equal amount of tax reduction wasn't expressed when you made decisions about trash service.

Another troubling issue is that a majority of the Council apparently ignored the results of the trash pilot. Last year you enlisted 776 households in the Hungerford and Monument communities in a 9-month pilot to study once-per-week pick-up. Last Fall, 358 of those households responded to a survey on the results. This is a phenomenal response rate, which I suggest indicates how seriously these households took their charge from you to test the new system before extending it to the rest of the City. Over 90 percent of respondents expressed satisfaction with the new service, and 82 percent recommended city-wide implementation of the pilot program.

While I didn't expect the Council to approve all of the changes proposed by the staff, it never occurred to me that a majority of the Council would totally ignore the results of the pilot. For some reason, the voices of these residents seem to have been drowned out by a much smaller number of vocal opponents who didn't participate in the pilot.

In order to remind the Council of our views, a week ago I distributed a flyer in the Hungerford community announcing the formation of a ROCKTRASH network of residents who favor optional, once-per-week service at a discount. As you have seen from the emails over the past week, this definitely has a lot of support in the community. I hope you will listen to these voices of common sense and reason.

I will close by saying that any resident who wants more info about ROCKTRASH, please email at [rocktrash@comcast.net](mailto:rocktrash@comcast.net). Rocktrash is one word – [rocktrash@comcast.net](mailto:rocktrash@comcast.net).

Thank you.