



Office of Mayor Miro Weinberger

MEMORANDUM

To: City Councilors
From: Mayor Miro Weinberger
Date: April 25, 2013
Re: Recycling Toters Resolution

While we are fortunate in Burlington to run a robust and effective recycling program that keeps recyclable commodities out of our landfills, we have significant challenges with keeping our recyclables in the blue, 15-gallon recycle bins while they are awaiting pickup. The contents of overflowing bins and windblown trash that litter our streets should not be the norm on recycling day in our neighborhoods.

At my request, Bill Ward, Director of Code Enforcement, and Steve Goodkind, Director of the Department of Public Works, created the attached memorandum that succinctly sets forth the problem, challenges, and recommendations and provides a firm foundation for creating a mandatory recycling toters initiative.

Earlier this week, I facilitated a meeting with a number of Burlington landlords, directors Ward and Goodkind, and resolution co-sponsor Councilor Karen Paul during which we had a productive conversation about the logistics of creating and implementing such an initiative.

Councilor Max Tracy's resolution, for your consideration on Monday night's City Council meeting agenda, begins the City's process of taking on the challenge of keeping our streets clean from recycling day debris. The resolution asks our Code Enforcement and Public Works departments to work with City staff and the Chittenden Solid Waste District to develop an initiative, formulated with public input, that makes wheeled, covered recycling toters (either 65 or 95 gallons) mandatory for rental properties with three or more units throughout the City.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider and pass Councilor Tracy's resolution and look forward to working with our City team to craft an impactful initiative for your consideration.

Thank you.