




PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM #2010 – 14

DATE: February 25, 2010
TO: Honorable Mayor Joyce Downing and City Council Members
FROM: William A. Simmons, City Manager 
David H. Willett, Director of Public Works 
Norman Bell, Public Works Superintendent 
SUBJECT: Sanitation Division – Cart Placement and Notices
Response to Citizen Inquiry

BACKGROUND

On April 9, 2009, City Council approved CB-1684, Ordinance number 1541, also known as the Trash Collection Ordinance. For reference see the Northglenn Municipal Code: Section 16-7-9, titled “Residence Collection Requirements.”

CART PLACEMENT

Two components of the Ordinance were key items to the successful implementation of the automated trash collection service. The first component was to mandate that all trash must be placed within a City-approved polycart. The second component was to require all residential customers to place their cart(s) such that the automated equipment mounted on the trash trucks could safely reach, control, and dump the carts without knocking them over and/or damaging personal property.

NOTIFICATION TO CUSTOMERS

The Sanitation Division has been working with residential customers to achieve compliance with the Ordinance. Information has been published on the City website and in the *Northglenn Connection* as well as personal explanation by administrative staff and field crews during this transition period. Courtesy and Violation Notices have been left on customer carts when compliance has not been met.

One common misconception is that a Violation Notice is construed in some manner as a summons or having the potential to enact a fine. The Sanitation Division does not have authority to issue summonses or levy fines. Violation Notices (no fines imposed) are issued to customers to address two major constraints to the program: 1) trash placed outside the approved cart, and 2) carts placement such that the driver can not safely reach and control them with the automated equipment. Trash outside the cart is not collected. Carts not properly placed are being arranged by the driver for emptying at a considerable loss to operating efficiency. Once all the automated trash trucks have been delivered and operational the carts must be placed properly or they will not be emptied.

There are some exceptions to this practice in neighborhoods where container placement is restricted due to lot size and configuration.

SUMMARY

The great majority of residential trash customers are currently complying with the new regulations. A typical 500 household route has been averaging about 5% non-compliance. Staff will continue to assist and educate customers as the automated trash collection process is fully implemented this spring.

STAFF REFERENCE

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