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TO: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager

FROM: R. Eric Slagle, Director of Development Services

DATE: September 25, 2019

RE: Motion by C. Elliott - Req. City Mgr. Have Development Services Address Illegal Dumping at Clothing Bins.

This memorandum addresses the request from Councilor Elliott regarding illegal dumping occurring at clothing and/or book donation bins.

As the Council knows, there are numerous donation bins on property around the City. These bins typically are operated by a charitable organization, and allow residents to easily donate specific types of materials. The placement of these bins occurs on both private property, and on public property (both on City property and at City schools).

However, as Councilor Elliott's motion states, often these bins become ripe for illegal dumping. As a matter of policy, we hold property owners responsible for dumping that occurs at these donation bins. For this reason, Development Services does not generally respond to dumping at public bins, leaving that enforcement in the hands of the DPW and/or the School Department, who have control over those bins. Development Services responds to illegal dumping at bins on private property with the following protocol.

When we receive a complaint of dumping or overloaded donation bins, we send an inspector out to investigate the claim. Once the complaint is corroborated, the inspector will reach out to the both the property owner and the company that is operating the donation bin. The entities are both told that the bin is a problem, that the City will pursue fines for continued dumping at the bins, and that they have the following options.

If the overflow appears to be of appropriate donation material, we suggest that they increase pick-ups at the bins so that there is adequate space in the bin for all of the donated material. If the items appear to be material that is not appropriate for the bin, we instruct the entities to reassess the location of the bin to be visible to the business operator, and consider installing cameras to be able to prosecute dumpers. Finally, if the property owner and/or the bin operator are not willing or able to make these changes, or if these changes are ineffective, we instruct the entities that the bin will need to be removed. Thus far, these options have been relatively effective at remedying problem bins, and we will continue to respond as necessary to these issues across the City.

ES

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