



Diane N. Tradd  
*Assistant City Manager/DPD Director*

R. Eric Slagle  
*Director of Development Services*

David Fuller  
*Building Commissioner*

TO: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*  
FROM: R. Eric Slagle, Director of Development Services  
DATE: June 4, 2020  
RE: Motion by C. Mercier – Req. City Manager Have Planet Aid Yellow Boxes  
Removed From St. Hilaire’s Car Wash; And Request A Report Regarding Other  
Planet Aid Boxes Throughout The City Which Are In Violation Of City Codes And  
Regulations.

This memorandum addresses the request from Councilor Mercier to address the clothing donation box at 1682 Middlesex St., St. Hilaire’s Car Wash.

Since the last report to the Council on this issue, the Planet Aid boxes at 1682 Middlesex St. which were causing a rash of illegal dumping have been requested to be removed, at the request of both the City and the property owner. In the interim, the property owner has taped off the area around the boxes and put up signs indicating that the boxes are no longer accepting donations. Since the tape and signs went up, we have not observed any illegal dumping at the site. We anticipate Planet Aid picking up the box shortly.

Councilor Mercier has also requested a report of other donation boxes throughout the City. It is important to note that the vast majority of donation boxes are not a problem for the City, and do not generate resident complaints. While we understand that there are a small percentage of donation boxes that cause neighborhood issues, there are concerns that wholesale removal of these boxes may generate more illegal dumping of recyclable items. The one other Planet Aid location that was a problem was at the Harmon’s Paint location at 314 Market St. Staff reached out to the property owner regarding the problem box, and the area has subsequently been cleaned up. We notified the owner that, if the location continued to have illegal dumping because of the box, we would require the box to be removed, and the owner agreed.

The other location that was mentioned was the donation box located at the Reilly School. We had a single complaint for that location, and the items around the box were cleaned up. We are reaching out to DPW and the School Department to clarify the process for these boxes locating on City property. Development Services is also working with the Law Department to investigate other methods to regulate donation boxes throughout the City.

ES  
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