




Paul St. Cyr,
Public Works Commissioner

TO: Thomas A. Golden, Jr; City Manager 

FROM: Gunther Wellenstein
DPW Deputy Director, Admin. & Finance

DATE: Thursday, September 7, 2023

RE: Motion by C. Kim Scott
“Req. City Mgr. Work With Appropriate Departments To Develop A City-
Wide Litter Educational Campaign”

While litter is a universal problem, some components and solutions are local, others require regional and State-wide collaboration & out of the box thinking.

Five municipalities, in the Commonwealth (Chelsea, Falmouth, Mashpee Newton & Wareham), have banned ‘nip’ bottles; Four (Chatham, Everett, Nantucket & Provincetown) have banned “Mass balloon releases”. In 2018, Lowell banned the sale of single-use plastic bags –more can be done.

The Solid Waste & Recycling Office is reviewing curriculum from Keep Massachusetts Beautiful: “**Stop the Drop**” and “**Let’s Stamp Out Cigarette Butt Litter**”. Components will be incorporated in Reduce-Reuse-Recycle school outreach programs.

During curbside enforcement the SW&R Team will address issues of open cart lids –attributed to causing local litter.

[§ 270-8 Storage of waste and curbside collection.](#)

A. Receptacles containing waste; all waste prior to placement for curbside collection shall be stored in watertight receptacles with tight-fitting covers. Said receptacles and covers shall be of metal or other durable, rodent-proof material. Violators shall be subject to a fine of \$25 for the first violation. All subsequent violations shall be subject to a fine of \$100 -N.B. this section will also be enforced on ‘private’ trash set out.

The SW&R Office will coordinate with the DPW – Street Dept., to provide for enhanced Street Sweeper coverage in neighborhoods prone to litter & with the Parks Dept., for our Public Spaces.

In addition, this subject will also be addressed in the FALL SW&R Newsletter, that is scheduled to be mailed later this month.

If there are any questions, please feel free to reach out.