

Gunther Wellenstien, Solid Waste/Recycling Coordinator  
James Donison, PE, Commissioner DPW

Date: September 27, 2018  
TO: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager *(EWS)*  
FROM: Gunther Wellenstein, Solid Waste/Recycling Coordinator and Jim  
Donison, P.E., DPW Commissioner

**SUBJECT: 9/25/2018 Motion 11.9 C. Cirillo - Req. City Mgr. Have proper department assess the amount of accumulated waste in the Jackson Street area since the new installation of the waste receptacles.**

We are writing in response to the above motion made by C. Cirillo. The SW&R Division has investigated this request.

This past July, two (2) new pedestrian litter barrels were installed on Jackson Street. This resulted in a total of four (4) City receptacles on this stretch -from Central St to the Judicial Center. In addition there are two (2) private barrels at the entrance to the Lowell Community Health Center. Under their contract with the City, Waste Management (WM) collects the waste from the Jackson/Appleton/Middleton (J.A.M.) area and other areas on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. DPW does not track or record the volume of waste accumulated or collected in the receptacles. The receptacles are automatically emptied by WM regardless of the amount of waste in them.

For information purposes, there are a total of 250 trash receptacles in the City's 'downtown'. In addition, there are 450 receptacles spread throughout the 92 city parks and public spaces. The majority of 'high-volume/high impact' locations are emptied on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. The remaining barrels are collected on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Additionally, there ten (10) wrought-iron barrels, along the Riverwalk, behind the Tsongas Arena, that are collected twice a week, by the (downtown) Parks Dept. crew.

The contract between WM and the City, for municipal solid waste, recycling and yard waste collection, is up for renewal at the end of 2018. DPW is exploring separating out the collection of 'public space' receptacles, from the overall contract and bidding this component separately. The component of 'litter barrel' collection is not the strength of a larger company such as WM. DPW expects a separate bid, for the receptacle collection, to be attractive to many smaller waste haulers; as a result the City should receive more competitive pricing. Also expected, with a smaller waste hauler, will be improved service which will help address the occasional complaints and overflow issues that are common in a large city, like Lowell.

Please feel free to contact either of us if you have any questions regarding this motion response.

Thank you