

*Referred to Environmental Committee,  
June 11, 2012 by E Toomey.*

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CITY COUNCIL

*(Attachment A)  
pg 1 and 2*

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 Policy Order Resolution

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O-1  
AMENDED ORDER  
IN CITY COUNCIL

March 5, 2012

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY  
COUNCILLOR CHEUNG  
MAYOR DAVIS  
COUNCILLOR DECKLER  
COUNCILLOR KELLEY  
COUNCILLOR MAHER  
COUNCILLOR REEVES  
VICE MAYOR SIMMONS  
COUNCILLOR VANBEUZEKOM

WHEREAS The City of Cambridge has made great strides in increasing the amount of recyclable materials collected through curbside pick up with the introduction of single stream recycling, and

WHEREAS An increase in recyclable materials results in an increase in sellable materials, and

WHEREAS The City of Cambridge currently does not pick up recycling or trash from businesses even if they are along an active curbside pick up route, and

WHEREAS Small businesses in Cambridge pay a higher commercial tax rate yet they do not receive the same services as residents paying a lower rate, and

WHEREAS Small businesses are required to have recycling and trash removal contracts with private haulers that can meet the specific pickup needs of the business, and

WHEREAS This results in various trucks picking up at different times and different businesses creating congestion and contributing to air pollution on the streets in our business districts, and

WHEREAS The City of Cambridge has made a commitment to actively pursue ways to reduce vehicle trips within the city, and

WHEREAS If small businesses operating along existing curbside pick up routes were included in curbside collection on regularly scheduled days it could potentially reduce truck traffic and vehicle trips within the City of Cambridge, reduce congestion, help save small businesses money by reducing one recycle pickup per week, increase the amounts of recyclables collected by the city with minimum impact on the program since the trucks are already operating in the area, and could help to encourage businesses to use the recycle center for further cost savings resulting in cost savings for Cambridge, now therefore be it

ORDERED That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Commissioner of Public Works with the intention of devising a plan for implementing separate trash or recycling curbside pick up for small businesses along existing curbside pick up routes and to report back to the City Council

ORDERED That any analysis of the separate programs should include extended

benefits such as reduced truck traffic and improved air quality as well as cost or additional revenue to the city.

In City Council March 5, 2012  
Adopted as amended by the affirmative vote of eight members.  
Attest:- Donna P. Lopez, Interim City Clerk

A true copy:

ATTEST -  
Donna P. Lopez, Interim City Clerk

**COUNCILLOR REEVES VOTED AS ABSTAINING ON THIS MATTER.**

*View Original Order*

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Living Working Visiting



## CITY COUNCIL

*(Attachment B)  
letter + 2-pg report*

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### City Manager Letter

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June 11, 2012

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To the Honorable, the City Council:

Hearing Schedule

Reconsiderations

City Manager's Agenda

Attached is a response to Awaiting Report Item Number 12-33, regarding a report on a plan for implementing separate trash or recycling curbside pickup for small businesses along existing curbside pickup routes, received from Public Works Commissioner Lisa Peterson

Calendar

Awaiting Report List

Please be advised that I am not recommending the implementation of such a program given the cost impacts to the City.

Applications and Petitions

Very truly yours,

Communications

Resolution List

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

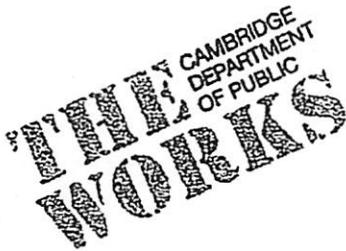
Policy Order and Resolution List

RWH/mec  
Attachment(s)

Committee Reports

Communications and Reports from City Officers

*View attached letter*



**Lisa Peterson**  
Commissioner

147 Hampshire Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
617-349-4800  
TTD 617-349-4805

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager  
FROM: Lisa Peterson, Public Works Commissioner *Lisa Peterson*  
TOPIC: Awaiting Report #12-33 regarding a plan for implementing separate trash or recycling curbside pickup for small businesses along existing curbside pick up routes  
DATE: June 4, 2012

Based on preliminary analysis, DPW staff has considered the operational and financial impact of providing curbside recycling and trash service to small businesses in Cambridge. Data provided by the Economic Development Department included a list of about 1835 businesses with 5 employees or less. The data does not include businesses located outside of the major business districts. The number presented below has been rounded for discussion purposes.

Some important considerations are that:

- ✓ The DPW has spent the last decade encouraging private haulers to pick up recycling at small businesses; this has been successful ---all solid waste haulers in the City provide options for recycling. If the City were to take over the recycling pickup at small business, there may be discontent within hauler industry.
- ✓ These small businesses are not evenly distributed across the Monday-Friday collection routes. DPW would recommend revising the collection day boundaries of the Tuesday and Wednesday routes to help address this, with particular attention to the Harvard Square area.
- ✓ The City may choose not to provide service to chains (which ultimately employ more than 5 employees and may not be designated as a small business).
- ✓ Need to ensure that businesses that generate hazardous waste handle it properly through their own vendor.

Recycling

This service would be a significant change to the curbside collection contract with F.W. Russell & Sons, which expires 10/31/15. Currently, the total curbside recycling tons from residences and city buildings currently served is about 9,000 tons. The City pays Russell a flat rate, which increases each year of the contract.

For FY12, the cost per ton for recycling collection is about \$160/ton. DPW estimates that each business would generate 150 pounds of recycling per week (2 toters), totaling over 7,150 additional tons/year, close to double the level of existing service. This could cost the City around \$1,144,000 more per year.



Revenue would bring in approximately \$93,000 at an average of \$13/ton for recycling, lowering the net cost increase to \$1,051,000. Please note that the recycling processing contract is structured to pay us revenue in good market conditions but could cost us in poor market conditions. These annual costs do not include increases that would be required for education and outreach and other administrative/operating costs.

Recycling toters would be an additional one time cost of approximately \$200,000.

In order to provide this service, the City would have two options. 1) Include this service in the next curbside recycling bid or 2) Initiate a new procurement process for the service, which could mean that a different vendor would provide the service to small businesses.

### Trash

It is estimated that DPW would have to add 2 more trucks to the fleet and 6 employees to the Rubbish crew. We estimate that each business would generate 100 pounds of trash per week (two barrels), totaling over 4,770 additional tons/year, a 30% increase to existing trash collection provided by the City to residences and city buildings. At \$89.11/ton for disposal fees for FY12, this service would cost the City over \$425,000 more in disposal fees. FY13 disposal costs are higher. In addition to the extra trucks, employees, fuel and maintenance would bring the total cost to the City to over \$1,252,000 more per year, using FY12 costs.

DPW would need additional staff to increase enforcement of business recycling to avoid paying disposal tip fees on recyclable material in the trash. Ultimately, we do not recommend providing trash service to small businesses. It is very important to create the right incentives that encourage recycling and composting and ensure commercial compliance with existing and planned state waste bans.

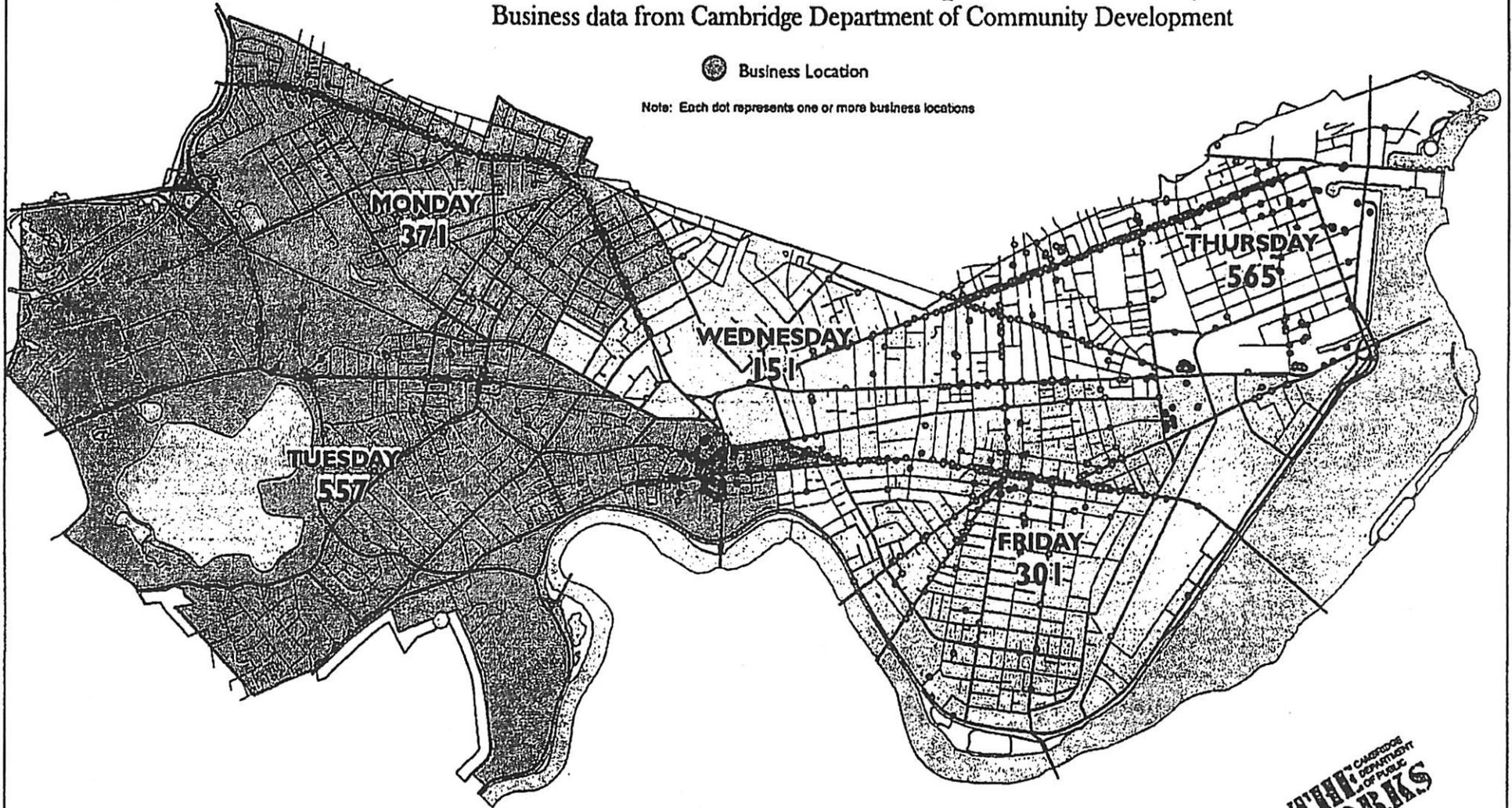
(Attachment C)

# Number of Businesses per Trash Day

Business data from Cambridge Department of Community Development

 Business Location

Note: Each dot represents one or more business locations



**THE** CAMBRIDGE  
DEPARTMENT  
OF PUBLIC  
**WORKS**

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(Attachment D)

			Curbside Trash (City-served only)	Single Stream Recycling	Total Recycling Revenue	Per Ton Rebate to City
<b>FY10</b>	2010	Nov	1,329	781	\$ 5,524	\$ 1.34
	2010	Dec	1,272	796	\$ 2,704	\$ 8.76
	2011	Jan	1,182	752	\$ 7,767	\$ 9.41
	2011	Feb	1,072	675	\$ 6,895	\$ 9.85
	2011	Mar	1,343	742	\$ 11,678	\$ 13.60
	2011	Apr	1,228	700	\$ 15,721	\$ 21.33
	2011	May	1,322	744	\$ 18,234	\$ 23.13
	2011	Jun	1,505	828	\$ 16,167	\$ 18.80
<b>FY11</b>	2011	Jul	1,268	688	\$ 16,453	\$ 22.16
	2011	Aug	1,485	790	\$ 22,369	\$ 27.13
	2011	Sep	1,527	836	\$ 23,073	\$ 26.11
	2011	Oct	1,267	752	\$ 18,350	\$ 23.25
	2011	Nov	1,318	805	\$ 14,030	\$ 16.75
	2011	Dec	1,240	777	\$ 1,695	\$ 1.80
	2012	Jan	1,265	813	\$ 972	\$ 0.80
	2012	Feb	1,128	691	\$ 1,794	\$ 2.21
	2012	Mar	1,221	703	\$ 2,883	\$ 3.16
	2012	Apr	1,143	733	\$ 8,847	\$ 11.56
	2012	May	1,336	805	\$ 7,107	\$ 8.47
	2012	Jun	1,376	773	\$ 5,084	\$ 6.14
	2012	Jul	1368?	705	\$ (1,586.25)	\$ (2.25)