

Joe Kickel

From: Sandy Moran Cuda <sandy.moran7@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2019 6:30 PM
To: Carin Miller; flipcity@att.net; Joe Kickel
Subject: Re: EXAMPLE of ISSUES WITH CITY DROP OFF FACILITIES. Pepper Pike seeks to resolve city hall garbage drop-off problem - cleveland.com - I don't have an email for Chairperson Johnson - please forward.

Adding Joe Kickel to the email (just located his email).
Sent from my iPad

On Sep 19, 2019, at 5:55 PM, Sandy Moran Cuda <sandy.moran7@gmail.com> wrote:

Bringing this forward as I believe one of the scenarios being considered by the Task Force (from what I thought I heard on the audio of last weeks meeting) is a Resident Recycling Drop OFF.

In discussions with Waste/ Recycling experts - I have been advised that drop off locations are notorious for becoming “dumping grounds”. Any City operated Recycling Drop Off Facility would have to be:

Easily accessible, safe for resident “traffic”, gated, secured staffed/supervised and would probably insure greater costs to the city than the current process.

<https://www.cleveland.com/community/2019/08/pepper-pike-seeks-to-resolve-city-hall-garbage-drop-off-problem.html>

Pepper Pike seeks to resolve city hall garbage drop-off problem

By [Jeff Piorkowski/special to cleveland.com](#)

Posted Aug 22, 2019



Pepper Pike is trying to clean up a garbage problem behind city hall.

PEPPER PIKE, Ohio -- When it comes to garbage pile-up on the grounds of city hall, things are getting out of hand.

“Over the past several years, people have been dropping garbage off in the back (of city hall) service garage, along with their newspapers and recycling, but it’s gotten worse, and worse and worse,” said Service Director Bob Girardi. “It’s generally a mess every Monday. Sometimes over night it gets like this. I think some of its from contractors and some of its from residents.”

The city collects garbage from homes four days per week but, if a resident wants to get rid of items before garbage collection arrives, they have been permitted to bring refuse to the service station bins, which also include three containers for paper products, one for cardboard products, and one for recycling. Girardi said some people don’t break down cardboard boxes as they are instructed to do to save space, while others combine recyclables with garbage, contaminating and ruining the recyclables. Newspapers aren’t always tossed into bins and are left to the elements. Speaking of those elements, wind and rain can create an even larger mess for the service department to clean on any given day.

Because of these conditions, council discussed Wednesday (Aug. 21) legislation centered on the municipal lot that would create penalties for those who do not follow the rules, including contractors and non-residents, who are not permitted to use the lot as a drop-off site. Council tabled the matter without taking a vote. The legislation before council would make a first offense a misdemeanor carrying a fine of up to \$250 and/or as many as 30 days in jail.



The Pepper Pike Service Department provided this photo as an example of how garbage piles up in the lot behind city hall.

Law Director Stephen Byron said taking such action as fining someone or putting them in jail for such an offense is not likely and is always seen as a last resort. And, as Girardi said, “We would always talk to someone first about correcting the problem (as opposed to seeking a legal resolution).”

Pepper Pike Police Chief Joe Mariola said violators would at some point be issued a ticket/court summons.

“It’s really out of hand, really out of hand,” Girardi said of the situation. He said there are instances in which residents who own businesses are using the drop-off site for disposal of their business refuse.

He also mentioned seeing a man in a truck filled with boxes. When Girardi asked the man in the truck what he was doing, the man replied that his boss at a University Heights business told him to dump the boxes at Pepper Pike City Hall. There have also been incidents in which contractors have used the drop-off to save themselves payment of a tipping fee.

“It’s unsanitary,” Girardi said. “Sometimes it takes us 45 minutes with six or seven people picking this stuff up.”

There is a message board at the site displaying its rules, and security cameras are in place. Byron said that, if the amendment is passed, more signage would be added. Cameras that offer greater clarity are also expected to be posted in the future, cameras that would be capable of recording license plate numbers or people's faces.

“Enforcement of these things, the initial activity, is greater clarity in the communications -- (stating) ‘These are the rules for the drop-off,’ Byron said. “Hopefully, you get the most compliance with that, and people can't say, ‘Oh, I didn't know.’ If you don't abide by the rules, the next thing is personal contact by a police officer.”

Mayor Richard Bain said that most of the problems occur on weekends when city personnel is not present to monitor what is happening. The mayor said that he has encountered people from other communities dropping off refuse behind Pepper Pike City Hall.

Girardi said the problem has been getting increasingly bad over the past eight years, or so. In recent years, more and more people are getting home deliveries in boxes, and many fail to break down the boxes before submitting them for recycling. The city pays a firm to take away the boxes.

“We don't want contractors using it, this is for ‘Joe Handyman’ at home,” Bain said of dropping off items such as drywall in moderate amounts. Rules at the site say residents can drop off up to one cubic yard of refuse in a 24-hour period.

“This should put some teeth in it,” Bain said of the proposed amendment helping to maintain the rules.

Bain said that the city is doing all it can to continue recycling in Pepper Pike. He said that, at present, he is not considering putting a stop to waste drop off at city hall.

“Most of our residents follow the rules,” said Girardi, who added that those who need to get rid of more than the drop-off site rules allow should contact the service department, at 216-896-6149, for pickup.

Beech Brook discussion

Council spent about an hour at Wednesday's meeting discussing the process now under way regarding the rezoning and redevelopment of the Beech Brook property, 3737 Lander Road.

The firm Axiom Development Group is seeking to develop the property for mixed use, to include housing, retail and office use. The Pepper Pike Planning Commission held a [lengthy meeting on the subject on Aug. 13](#) at which the developers spoke of not yet having a plan drawn for the site. The developers are awaiting a rezoning issue to be placed on the ballot, possibly in March, as they seek a change to that of an overlay district, which would allow for their proposed uses. The property is now zoned institutional.

Councilman Jim LeMay was adamant Wednesday that Axiom should be "challenged" in advance to state now a density for the project so that projected traffic flow in the area can be better known and voters would have a better idea on what they are voting when it comes to rezoning. Bain said that traffic flow is of concern to him, as well.

The discussion about the Beech Brook property will continue at a Planning & Zoning Commission meeting, which may be scheduled for the second week of September, perhaps at a larger venue than city hall. The Aug. 13 meeting within the small council chambers drew an overflow crowd.

Bain said that with so much discussion ahead, and public input yet to be gathered, the rezoning vote may not take place as early as March.

See more [Chagrin-Solon Sun](#) news here.

Sent from my iPad