

Reply to Common Council File No. 030856

From DOA-Budget and Management Division

October 22, 2003

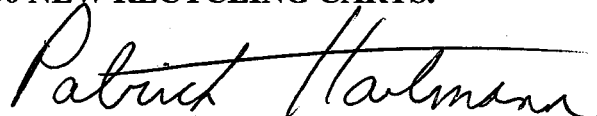
Ref: 03021

Common Council File No. 030856 is a resolution approving a 2003 Common Council Contingent Fund appropriation totaling \$232,960 to fund the purchase of 5,000 new garbage carts and 1,000 new recycling carts. These new carts will be used by the Department of Public Works(DPW) to replace missing, or irreparably damaged residential garbage and recycling carts throughout the remainder of 2003.

In 1981, The City of Milwaukee began providing residential households with garbage carts in concert with DPW's conversion to a partially automated garbage collection system requiring the use of flipper compatible garbage carts. This automated flipper system increased the efficiency with which garbage could be collected and remains in use today. Since that time, the City has continued to provide, free of charge, flipper compatible garbage and recycling carts to households of up to four families or less.

DPW estimates the total number of residential recycling and garbage carts in use throughout the City at approximately 350,000 carts. The City maintains this city-wide inventory by repairing damaged carts and replacing carts that become missing or beyond repair. Since the City began using the flipper cart system, the average age of residential garbage carts has increased, increasing the need for cart repair and replacement. In 2002, DPW repaired 34,387 carts and replaced 25,190 carts with new carts. However, in the City's 2002 Budget, funding was provided for the purchase of 15,000 new carts. This resulted in the depletion of DPW's reserve inventory of repaired and new carts. For its 2003 Budget request, DPW requested funding for the replacement of 25,000 garbage carts. However, in the 2003 Budget funding for the purchase of 15,000 new carts was again provided. As a result, DPW estimates that it will deplete its reserve inventory of garbage and recycling carts by the end of October, 2003.

**RECOMMENDATION: IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SANITARY PLACEMENT OF RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE AND RECYCLING MATERIALS, AND TO CONTINUE THE EFFICIENT COLLECTION OF THESE ITEMS BY DPW, APPROVE COMMON COUNCIL FILE 030856 AUTHORIZING A 2003 COMMON COUNCIL CONTINGENT FUND APPROPRIATION TOTALING \$232,960 TO FUND THE PURCHASE OF 5,000 NEW GARBAGE CARTS AND 1,000 NEW RECYCLING CARTS.**



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