



To Whom It May Concern:

It takes a tremendous amount of resources and effort to bring our stores to realization. We choose our communities carefully and always bring great value to our neighborhoods with award-winning store designs as well as excellent pricing. However, with the proposed shopping cart ordinance, we feel a very unwelcoming attack on our establishments.

The entire concept of this ordinance is backwards thinking with the idea of punishing businesses for the actions of criminals. It makes no sense to impose a fine on "unprotected" carts to the business losing the carts. We already pay a lot of money for these shopping carts, so we obviously don't want to lose them in the first place. This ordinance is indirectly stating that businesses like ours are contributing to the problem that the community is facing with the abandoned carts. In reality, we try our best to prevent shopping cart theft because they are expensive, a total cost well over \$70,000. The blame needs to be placed on people committing crimes, not on businesses providing hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in tax revenue.

Also, some of the proposed methods of protecting carts from being stolen are not worth doing. For example, the barrier system that locks the wheels is completely useless and very expensive, adding about 40% extra cost to the shopping carts themselves plus the cost of installing the barrier system. The main problem with this way of "protecting" carts is that it does not work. We have tried this system at one of our stores located on Diversey Avenue in Chicago. People have still picked these carts up and taken them off the premises. They then simply break the locking wheel. Along with that glaring issue, the system is not very durable. Especially when dealing with our type of weather, these devices need to be replaced every couple years at best. The issue with the coin lock system is that it drives down business greatly. We have also tried this method at another one of our locations. Many customers dislike this coin lock system or don't have coins on them and will simply go shopping without a cart or with just a hand basket. This equates to many lost sales. On your end, this means a loss of taxes as well.

We hope you agree that our points are valid. We pride ourselves on our stores and the products we sell. We feel that if the abandoned shopping carts are such a big issue, then you should go after the actual people causing the problems. You wouldn't go after a car manufacturer because a drunk driver caused an accident. So what is the sense of punishing a grocery store that is already losing money when this shopping cart theft occurs?

If you would like to discuss this further, please call me at 847-544-8705.

Sincerely,
Michael Bousis
President