

Summary of Common Council Actions Relating to Illegal Dumping & Cameras

Public Works Committee

File #231309

LRB 179616

January 24, 2024

Number of Council Files

Type of File	Introduced	Passed or Adopted	Placed on File	In Committee
Ordinance	18	13	2	3
Resolution	12	10	1	1
Communication	12	NA	6	6

Ordinances

Year	File	Summary	Status
1999	990085	This file creates a licensing requirement to haul waste. It requires private waste haulers to remove graffiti from their containers and creates penalties for private haulers who dump illegally.	Passed
2009	090428	This file established a requirement to register vacant buildings, in part because vacant houses invite dumping. The ordinance had a 5-year sunset provision.	Passed
2009	090470	This file prohibits household and construction waste in anti-litter cans and weekend boxes and provides a penalty \$350-\$500 for the first offense and \$400 - \$750 for subsequent offenses.	Passed
2009	090592	This file expands the definition of construction debris, reduces the bulky waste limit from 4 yds. to 2 yds., and establishes fees for construction debris at the Drop-Off Centers.	Passed
2010	091362	This file revises the Self-Help charges for construction debris.	Passed
2010	100308	This file establishes dumping as a different offense than littering and establishes fines between \$1,500 and \$5,000. It also affirms that it is the property owner's responsibility to clean up illegal dumping.	Passed

Ordinances (Cont'd)

Year	File	Summary	Status
2012	120813	This ordinance establishes graduated bulky waste collection charges. Under the ordinance, the DPW will not collect bulky waste in excess of 6 cubic yards.	Passed
2012	121041	This ordinance would have specified the location of bulky waste exceeding one cubic yard that may be tagged for removal and subject to a special charge.	Placed on File
2013	130777	This ordinance increases the charge for depositing a load of construction waste at a Drop-Off Center from \$15 to \$20.	Passed
2014	131448	This resolution would transfer the administrative authority for permitting and licensing from the City Clerk to DNS.	In Committee
2015	141669	This file reinstates the vacant building registry (it sunset on Jan. 1, 2015) and makes it permanent.	Passed
2017	170183	This file puts additional requirements on waste tire generators to discourage improper disposal.	Passed

Ordinances (Cont'd)

Year	File	Summary	Status
2017	171048	This file would increase the penalty for littering from between \$50 and \$500 to \$100-\$500 and increase the penalty for dumping from between \$1,500 and \$5,000 to \$3,000-\$10,000.	In Committee
2017	171049	This file would have required Council approval of private waste hauler licenses issued by the City Clerk.	Placed on File
2017	171140	This ordinance decreases the time to comply with an order to correct a violation relating to a dumpster in the public right-of-way from 60 days to 24 hours. It also increases the penalty for non-compliance from \$25 per month to \$250 for the first month and \$500 for subsequent months.	Passed
2018	171736	This file authorizes DNS to issue citations for illegal dumping.	Passed
2018	181292	This file authorizes DPW to assess fees for the acceptance of solid waste at City Drop-Off centers. The file also revises certain definitions to make them consistent in various parts of the solid waste regulations.	Passed
2023	230680	This file would waive the filing fee for successful appeals to ARAB relating to illegally-dumped garbage.	In Committee

Resolutions

Year	File	Summary	Status
2011	101168	This file authorizes the expenditure of \$25,000 from the 2011 Illegal Dumping Tip Hotline SPA for WeTip Inc. to administer the hotline.	Adopted
2012	111628	This resolution directs DOA-IRD to work with the State to establish standards for solid waste collection, transportation, processing, record keeping and reporting for discarded, salvageable, and recyclable materials.	Adopted
2012	120014	This file directs DPW to establish a new hotline for reporting vacant building vandalization using funds from the Illegal Dumping Tip Hotline SPA.	Adopted
2013	130641	This file would have directed DOA-ITMD to produce a feasibility report on a mobile app for reporting potholes, graffiti, illegal dumping, etc.	Placed on File
2014	131798	This resolution establishes a Recycling, Salvage and Metal Scrapping Task Force to address theft and unlawful conversion of materials used in building construction and municipal infrastructure.	Adopted
2015	150764	This resolution amends File Number 111628 by adding language in support of an electronic scrap metal reporting system.	Adopted

Resolutions (Cont'd)

Year	File	Summary	Status
2017	171229	This file directs DNS to consult with MPD and other departments to develop strategies and implement practices to prevent illegal dumping.	Adopted
2018	180481	This file directs DPW to develop a plan for implementing a dedicated service to respond to complaints about garbage and to immediately remove illegally-dumped solid waste and bulky waste.	Adopted
2018	181219	This file directs DNS to work with other departments to develop a strategy for reducing illegal dumping in areas of the City where illegal dumping is the most frequent.	Adopted
2020	201185	This file directs DPW and DNS to establish a special pickup service for residents who report illegal dumping and to report on the service within 90 days.	Adopted
2021	201547	This file authorizes DPW to participate in a 3-month pilot project to collect data to improve Sanitation's operations.	Adopted
2023	230664	This file will relate to reports of illegal dumping, potholes and littering by City of Milwaukee staff.	Title Only

Communication Files

Year	File	Summary	Status
2005	041665	The City received a letter from WE Energies encouraging the City to prosecute illegal dumpers.	Placed on File
2014	131634	From the DOA-ITMD relating to the development and implementation of mobile device applications for the photographing and reporting of potholes, graffiti, illegal dumping and other service issues to the City.	Placed on File
2017	171037	From DPW relating to illegal dumping.	In Committee
2018	171764	From DPW relating to the implementation of File #170930, requiring dumpsters in the public right-of-way to have special privileges.	Placed on File
2018	180600	From DNS relating to improvements to the process of nuisance garbage and debris removal.	Placed on File
2019	181811	From DNS relating to continuing City-wide strategies relating to illegal dumping.	Placed on File

Communication Files (Cont'd)

Year	File	Summary	Status
2019	190494	From various City departments transmitting reports itemizing services and resources provided in the 53206 ZIP code area.	In Committee
2019	191419	From DPW and DNS relating to the utilization of City drop-off sites, fees and policies, and illegal dumping.	In Committee
2020	191615	From DNS, DPW and DCD relating to dumping and disposal of waste tires in the city.	In Committee
2020	191930	From DPW relating to the status of current and future operations.	In Committee
2021	210502	From DPW submitting a report on preliminary cost estimates to build and operate a third City Drop-Off Center.	Placed on File
2023	231309	From DNS and DPW relating to illegal dumping.	In Committee

Budget Amendments

Year	#	Summary	Status
2017	17	This amendment would have added position authority, an FTE and \$35,000 in funding for a new position of Special Enforcement Inspector Trainee in DNS to identify and report code violations such as nuisance garbage, tall weeds, potholes and burned-out streetlights.	Withdrawn
2017	22	This amendment would have put \$100,000 in a new special fund titled “Neighborhood Block Watch” in the Police Department for the installation of signage, cameras and additional street lighting in 10 neighborhoods experiencing a high frequency of automobile-based drug trade.	Withdrawn
2017	23A	This amendment put \$150,000 in a new special fund titled “Neighborhood Block Watch” in the Police Department for the distribution of signage, cameras and additional street lighting for 15 neighborhoods experiencing a high frequency of automobile-based drug trade.	Adopted
2018	54A	This amendment inserted a footnote in DNS directing the department to work with other city agencies and departments to develop anti-dumping strategies.	Adopted

Budget Amendments (Cont'd)

Year	#	Summary	Status
2019	33	The amendment inserted a footnote in DNS requiring the Commissioner to develop a strategy for reducing illegal dumping in areas that experience high volumes of illegal dumping.	Adopted
2019	56B	This amendment added \$375,000 in borrowing authority to the Police Department's capital budget to fund Project Greenlight. The purpose of the project was to purchase hardware and software for a video management system that would allow Police to view streaming security camera footage from participating residents and businesses. A footnote directed the Police Department to develop standard operating procedures and report to the Common Council before expending any funds.	Adopted
2020	46	This amendment would have put \$50,000 in a new special fund in DNS for the purchase and distribution of cameras to monitor illegal dumping.	Failed at Committee
2021	17	This amendment would have added position authority, \$50,000 of funding and an FTE for one position of Infrastructure Monitor in the City Clerk's Office to monitor the condition of infrastructure in distressed aldermanic districts.	Withdrawn

Budget Amendments (Cont'd)

Year	#	Summary	Status
2021	30	This amendment would have added \$25,000 to DNS's equipment budget to purchase cameras to help reduce illegal dumping. A footnote expressed the Council's intent to allocate CDBG funding for the purchase of additional cameras.	Withdrawn
2021	31C	This amendment put \$25,000 in the new "Illegal Dumping Prevention" special fund in DNS to purchase and install pole-mounted cameras, signage, education material, and to pursue other methods of preventing illegal dumping. A footnote expressed the Council's intent to allocate CDBG funding to purchase and monitor additional cameras.	Adopted
2021	36	This amendment would have inserted a footnote directing the DPW and DNS to establish a special pick-up service for residents who report illegal dumping. The footnote expressed the Council's intention to allocate carryover and CDBG funding to implement the service.	Withdrawn
2024	1	This amendment funded the new "Illegal Dumping Monitoring" special fund in the City Clerk's Office to purchase cameras for recording illegal dumping.	Adopted

Press Releases

Year	# per Yr.	Subject(s)
2012	1	WeTip Hotline
2013	2	Basura Bash neighborhood cleanup; Alley lighting project in Burnham Park
2014	1	Operation Alley Cat
2015	4	Various neighborhood cleanups; Vacant lot challenge
2016	0	
2017	4	Surveillance cameras and alley lighting; Litter marshals; Neighborhood cleanup; Changes to dumpster ordinance
2018	2	Reporting options for illegal dumping; Big Clean MKE
2019	9	Various neighborhood cleanups; New littering fines; “Don’t Litter” campaign; MKE mobile app
2020	0	
2021	5	Various neighborhood cleanups; Camp out at Garden Homes
2022	3	Various neighborhood cleanups
2023	7	Various neighborhood cleanups; Anti-littering messages; PSA on illegal dumping

