



October 16, 2006

Department of Neighborhood Services
Inspectional services for health, safety and neighborhood improvement

Martin G. Collins
Commissioner

Tracy Williams
Chief Operations Officer

Finance Committee Members
City Hall, Room 205

Dear Alderman Murphy:

This is a supplement to my testimony at the October 9, 2006 Finance Committee concerning the DNS proposed budget. Questions were raised about the change in nuisance garbage abatement procedures. These are currently being done by both DPW and by private contractors.

The clean-up process will remain the same up to the point where reinspection of the clean-up orders show non-compliance. 78% of the orders are complied with on the reinspection date. At that point in the process, rather than DNS referring some of the cases to DPW and bidding out some, we will be sending them all to DPW. They will then abate them either through the use of city forces or by use of private contractors. One advantage of doing this is that DPW will be able to assess each case and determine, based on the availability of their staff daily and the nature of the problem, how to best proceed with the fastest available option.

Currently, the remaining 22% of the cases are resolved as follows: 11% by DPW forces and 11% by private contractor. The intent of this change is to reduce the amount of time it takes in the approximately 11% of the total litter cases that we currently bid out to contractors. Faster abatement is a goal that we all share. By having DPW be able to make the decision which abatement method to use, they will be able to adjust daily rather than have us make the decision based on general criteria for making the contractor/DPW split.

I have spoken to Commissioner Mantes and he informs me that they will be exploring alternative contracting methods with the goal of abating these litter conditions in an average of 3 days from the date that DNS transfers the case to DPW. Commissioner Mantes and I have discussed alternative contracting methods. Commissioner Mantes will be able to explain these contracting methods in further detail at the DPW budget hearing on Friday, Oct. 20th.

I will continue to work with the Commissioner of Public Works and together we will coordinate efforts to improve nuisance garbage abatement. I support his efforts to improve on this process and will be working with him to accomplish it. I hope you will allow him the opportunity to accomplish this goal.

Sincerely,

Martin G. Collins
Commissioner

C: Jeff Mantes
James Purko
Tracy Williams