



Department of Public Works  
Environmental Services  
Sanitation & Forestry  
"Clean & Green"

**Jeffrey J. Mantes**  
Commissioner of Public Works

**James P. Purko**  
Director of Operations

**Preston D. Cole**  
Environmental Services Superintendent

May 6, 2009

Mr. Grant F. Langley  
City Attorney  
Zeidler Municipal Building, Rm 716

Re: Request for legal opinion relating to recycling enforcement

Dear Mr. Langley:

On April 27, 2009, the Recycling Task Force met and reviewed the recycling enforcement laws for the City of Milwaukee. During its review, members had expressed concerns relating to the legality of city staff searching garbage and recycling carts on private property, as well as, doing searches of the carts at the curbside.

As Chair of the Recycling Task Force, I would like to request a legal opinion on the legality of city staff doing searches of garbage and recycling carts on private property and at the curbside.

Thank you in advance.

Very truly yours,

Preston D. Cole, Chair  
Recycling Task Force

PDC/TJM/ttj