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Subject: public comment item #10
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Please include this as public comment and a written communication during “Oral Communications” concerning Item #10, “Scavenging Enforcement in Solid Waste Containers” on the Tuesday August 4th City Council agenda.

First, Councilman Mosby should recuse himself from this discussion since a vendor leasing property from him accepts large amounts of the scavenged material in question. Arguably, Mr. Mosby has a monetary interest in the outcome of this hearing since without input from the scavengers the vendor may not need to lease space.

While it is technically a crime to scavenge recyclable materials the staff report notes that “scavenging practices currently do not represent a loss of revenue to the City”; and in fact may “represent a savings of over \$80,000 per year to the City”. So, the question would be is it cost effective to have the Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer invest time in this project?

One of the primary issues I see is that scavengers often leave trash lying about around the trash containers after they have searched for buried treasure. Another is that often they use stolen shopping carts to convey their materials to the recycle vendor.

If the Council chooses to implement this program, it may be productive to ask the recycling vendor to participate in any “scavenging educational pilot program” as a means of reaching the target audience.

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