

**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
WATERSHED & NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 2015-01**

A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE'S SOLID WASTE SERVICES REQUIRE GOVERNMENT HILL RESIDENTS TO PLACE GARBAGE ON THE CURB FOR COLLECTION AND THAT THE MUNICIPALITY CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE PLAN *LIVING WITH WILDLIFE IN ANCHORAGE: A COOPERATIVE PLANNING EFFORT*.

(WNRC Case No. 2015-02)

WHEREAS, the Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor, the Assembly, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and municipal departments; and

WHEREAS, Solid Waste Services (SWS) provides curbside garbage collection for about 13,000 households in the Municipality of Anchorage, including the neighborhoods of Government Hill, Mountain View, Rogers Park, University Area, and Scenic Foothills; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has collected data that shows some of these areas have chronic problems with bears getting into garbage; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the April 2000 plan *Living with Wildlife in Anchorage: A Cooperative Planning Effort*, and the Anchorage Bear Committee have identified improperly secured garbage as the primary reason black bears are attracted into neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, bears that become conditioned to human foods and linger in neighborhoods to exploit easily accessible garbage are potential risks to public safety, which requires the police and other public agencies to devote more time and money to the problem, and

WHEREAS, the Commission has discussed these issues with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, SWS, and Alaska Waste, which is the largest solid waste collection service in the Municipality; and

WHEREAS, no existing bear-resistant containers are designed to work with the automated trucks currently employed by SWS and Alaska Waste; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Waste offers customers the option of paying an additional small monthly fee during summer for a bear-resistant tipper cart or dumpster to cover the extra handling; and

WHEREAS, SWS allows Government Hill clients to use alleys for garbage collection instead of the usual curbside pickup, which increases the number of tipper carts left outside where garbage is accessible to bears all week long; and

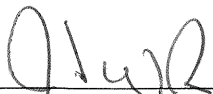
WHEREAS, this Commission recommended in WNRC Resolution No. 2013-01 that SWS become more involved in the multi-agency Anchorage Bear Committee because agency coordination, cooperation, and public education are needed to address human-bear conflicts throughout the Municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality has long supported the plan *Living with Wildlife in Anchorage: A Cooperative Planning Effort*, incorporating it by reference in Title 21.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission recommends that:

- A. Solid Waste Services require Government Hill residents to place their tipper carts on the curb;
- B. Solid Waste Services should continue looking for bear-resistant tipper carts that are compatible with its automated collection equipment;
- C. In the meantime, Solid Waste Services consider offering customers the option of bear-resistant containers like Alaska Waste;
- D. The Municipality strictly and consistently enforce relevant sections of Anchorage Municipal Code (26.70 and 26.80) regarding the timing and location of garbage collection; and
- E. The Municipality of Anchorage continue to coordinate and cooperate with the Anchorage Bear Committee in support of the plan *Living with Wildlife in Anchorage: A Cooperative Planning Effort*.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission on this 29th day of July, 2015.



Jerry T. Weaver, Jr.
Secretary



for Tamás Deák
Chair