



METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL

Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer

Pam Bissonnette, Director
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
201 S Jackson St, Ste 700
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Pam:

Over the past year I have heard from constituents who have requested assistance with how to report illegal dumping. As you know, depending on the nature of the violation, illegal dumping has been handled by Public Health, Solid Waste, KCSO, DDES and Road Services. Because there are so many responder agencies, constituents are often confused as to whom to contact. Residents frustrated with the processing time at one agency will simply contact another agency, and then call my office, a process that creates three separate reports for only one complaint.

Fortunately, in February 2004 these concerns were addressed in the *Report and Recommendations of the King County Illegal Dumping Task Force*. Some of the task force's key issues included making it easier for residents to contact the appropriate agency, avoid duplication of services, clarify each agency's jurisdiction and expand public education and prevention efforts. To achieve these goals, the task force suggested the creation of a centralized *Illegal Dumping Hotline* from which the various agencies could coordinate a response.

However, although the task force called for "one easily located number they could call to ensure their complaint is properly received" I could not locate the hotline number on the home pages of DDES, KSCO, or the Health Department (I did find the link on the main King County site, but I think it would be much easier for members of the public to find the number if it were located on the websites all the related agencies). In fact, I was not even aware this number existed until very recently.

Consequently, I was led to ask:

- How many of the recommendations included in the *Illegal Dumping Task Force* have been implemented, and how many are still in development?
- Has the Enforcement Committee come up with any recommended code amendments to Title 23?
- Has the full-time prosecuting attorney position with dedicated funding for illegal dumping enforcement been filled?
- To what extent has the "Community Pride" program designed to increase community awareness of illegal dumping been implemented?
- After the omnibus legislation of 2003 resulted in the closure of transfer stations around the County, has your office noticed an increase in illegal dumping, and if so, have recommendations and plans to combat this issue been altered accordingly?
- In your opinion, is there an opportunity for the County Council to partner with related agencies (especially in the Community Outreach area) to help fulfill the recommendations outlined by the Task Force?

I am looking forward to your reply; if you have any further questions, please contact my staff member Matt Gasparich at (206) 296-1676.

With best wishes,


Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer
18 January 2006

cc: Sue Rahr, Chief, Department of Public Safety
Theresa Jennings, Director, Solid Waste Division
Daryl Grigsby, Director, Water and Land Resources Division
Harold Taniguchi, Director, Department of Transportation
Linda Dougherty, Director, Roads Services Division
Ngozi Oleru, Environmental Health Chief, Environmental Health Division
Stephanie Warden, Director, Department of
Development and Environmental Services
Joe Miles, Manager, Land Use Services Division