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September 24, 2015

Connie Hamilton
Connect-to-Council
connect-to-council@earthlink.net

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

Below is my response to the "Ask the City Manager" section on the Connect-to-Council website.

Question

What is the City of Santa Ana going to do to prevent people from taking the glass and plastic bottles out of our recyclable carts?

Answer

Over the years, and especially since the recent economic downturn, there has been a significant increase in individuals taking glass and plastic bottles from recyclable carts in Santa Ana. It is obvious that some individuals know the recycling routes and take recyclables ahead of the Waste Management collection trucks. In an effort to increase awareness on this issue and to deter this practice, Waste Management provides "Scavenging is a Crime" cart stickers for residents to place on their carts. These are in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese, which are available to residents upon request. In addition, the City includes articles in the Santa Ana Green quarterly newsletter that provide tips on reducing the taking of recyclables, such as placing carts out for collection in the morning by 6:00 a.m., and not the night before.

The City's current Waste Management contract includes language that protects the City from any revenue loss associated from the removal of recyclable items. In any event, the City will work with Waste Management in identifying options to address the issue such as proving a locking cart option for our residents.

Sincerely,



David Cavazos
City Manager

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