



Mark Jeffreys
Councilmember

March 1, 2022

MOTION

Littering & Illegal Dumping Enforcement

To gain a better understanding of how littering and illegal dumping violations are cited, WE MOVE that, the Administration report back to Council within sixty days on:

- How many citations for littering and illegal dumping have been issued each year for each of the past five years and who has been issuing those citations (e.g. CPD, B&I, Health, etc.), with these citations being broken out by type: illegal dumping (on public and private property violations separately) or standard littering (i.e. someone throwing trash out of their car window).
- The total monetary value of the littering and illegal dumping citations in each of the past five years by type of violation and how much of that total amount has been recovered by type.
- An assessment of what portion of the difference between the total fines issued and total revenue recovered is due to lower collections rather than the court system not enforcing the fine given by the citation authority.
- Cost of littering clean up by type for each of the past five years
- What fund the revenue from those citations is put into.
- How Cincinnati's dollar amount for fines associated with litter and illegal dumping citations compares to its peer cities. This should include information on whether or not other cities have a different penalty for repeat offenders.
- A recommendation on the amount of additional cameras and/or personnel that are needed to enforce illegal dumping and any risks/concerns associated with this action.

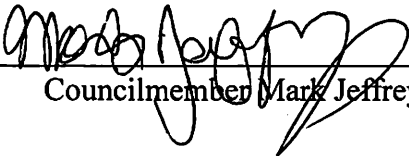
- A recommendation on whether Cincinnati should increase fines for repeat illegal dumping and littering offenders, and any risks/concerns associated with this action.
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STATEMENT

Cincinnati has a significant litter and illegal dumping problem. An analysis by the Cincinnati Enquirer in late 2021 found that through mid-September 2021, there were 3,016 litter complaints, which would put Cincinnati on track to top or equal 2018, which was the highest number of annual complaints in the past 10 years. Department of Public Services (DPS) Director Jerry Wilkerson has testified to City Council that once litter is picked up then it comes right back within days, which often is the same for illegal dumping on which the city spent \$2 million to clean up in 2021. Keep Cincinnati Beautiful has separately testified that they will undertake a marketing campaign similar to “Don’t Trash the Nati” from years ago to help shift the mindset of our community on littering, and that there are 20 cameras at the ~200 illegal dumping sites across the city.

In testimony before City Council, we heard both from DPS and Buildings & Inspections that they are unclear how many fines are issued for citizen littering and were not clear where this revenue goes. We also heard that the court system often does not enforce fines so they are not often recovered, and because of that – especially for illegal dumping – that there is little incentive to stop the practice especially for repeat offenders.

Based on this data, City Council will be able to assess further action that may be needed to address this growing problem.


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