
MEMORANDUM

To: Jim Dinley, Administrator
Mayor McAdams and Members of the Assembly

Through: Michael Harmon, Director of Public Works *MB for MH*

From: Dan Jones, Engineering Manager (Operations) *[Signature]*

cc: Dave Wolff, Finance Director

Date: June 17, 2010

Subject: Bear Resistant Garbage Can Trial, Upper Cascade Creek Road

Background:

Over the last few decades greater numbers of bears in Sitka have become habituated to human contact, and garbage bears have become an issue for Sitkans. In 2008 the Assembly passed ordinance 2008-09 establishing Sitka General Code section 9.24 Bear Attraction Nuisance, as one way to deal with garbage bears.

Since 2008 a number of citizens of Sitka have experimented with bear resistant modifications to the garbage cans used by Alaska Pacific Environmental Systems (APES)/Stragier Sanitation for collection in Sitka. The new style of can, that APES/Stragier is beginning to deploy as the original cans come to the end of their useful life, appear to be best suited to the modifications. \

A trial of one of the modified cans will be conducted at Fortress of the Bear Saturday 19 June at 11 AM. The bears' meal for the day will be delivered to them in the can, and the results will be videotaped. Assembly members and the public may view that trial. Another one of the modified cans will be in the Assembly chamber for inspection during the Assembly meeting on Tuesday.

The Administration proposes to conduct a trial of bear resistant garbage cans in the upper Cascade Creek Road (above Edgcumbe Drive) area. This area has a high incidence of bear visits, and is small enough for a trial, at approximately 40 residences.

Use of the new style of garbage cans, modified for bear resistance, will require that the residents of upper Cascade Creek Road clip their cans closed during the week, and disconnect the clips when the can is delivered to the curb on collection day. Also, residents who now share old style group tubs with their neighbors will have to be converted to individual cans.

Fiscal Note:

Modification of the new style cans for the proposed trial is estimated to cost approximately \$2,000.00. The Fiscal Year 2011 budget for garbage collection should be sufficient to cover the additional costs of this trial.

Recommendation:

Authorize the Administrator to conduct a trial of bear resistant garbage cans in the Upper Cascade Creek Road area, with an estimated cost of \$2,000.00.