

**NORTHWEST  
DISTRICT ASSOCIATION**  
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Mr. Paul Van Orden, Noise Control Manager  
Office of Neighborhood Involvement  
1221 Southwest Fourth Avenue, Room 110  
Portland, Oregon, 97204

1 September 2004

Dear Mr. Van Orden,

We understand that you are in the process of preparing recommendations to City Council regarding issues associated with the collection of garbage in this city.

We would like to register our support for the measures related to driver training and noise-dampening which we understand will be part of your recommendation. We would also like to register our support for the establishment of a franchise system for the collection of all garbage in the city, with said system to include collection from all commercial businesses and all multifamily dwellings, in addition to that which currently applies only to single-family homes and multifamily residences with less than five units.

Issues related to garbage collection go far beyond the suppression of night-time noise. Each customer on a given city street is more often than not served by two or more different haulers. With different companies providing both refuse collection and recycling services for each 'commercial' customer, this often means more than ten different haulers for both sides of any given one-block section of a city street. This not only produces noise throughout the day and night in the form of crashing dumpsters, backup beepers, diesel engines, and screeching brakes, but it also significantly raises the level of air pollution. Many other cities which are less environmentally concerned than ours have established franchise systems. The lack of one in Portland is indefensible.

Along with the franchise system, we would like to see the institution of a ban on refuse collection between the hours of 10 PM and 7AM (please note that we consider 'night-time' to extend to 7AM). This ban need not be city-wide, but should apply to neighborhoods, such as the Northwest District, which have a high percentage of residential structures. On most streets in such neighborhoods, there is little traffic congestion between the hours of 7 AM and 12 noon, and with proper route planning there should be ample time to effect all pickups without encountering traffic problems.

We hope that you will take our thoughts into consideration during your presentation to City Council, and we want to thank you for your efforts to improve a situation which becomes more insufferable with each passing year.

Yours sincerely,

Page Stockwell  
On behalf of the NWDA Board