

My public comments on the trash proposal for the City of Lakewood

Laurie Graves, 2031 S. Jay Way

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I am opposed to recycling being mandatory and having people pay a minimum fee for trash services even if they don't use them.

In principle, I am against charging people a minimum for private sector services they won't use. Think of it as another example of an "Affordable Care Act penalty" on people only for trash / recycling services. You just can't keep increasing the cost of living for people living in their own homes on fixed incomes or only part year residents unless you are interested in driving them out.

Personally, I am a senior, disabled, living alone, on fixed income. I can't afford a price increase AND pay for a recycling service I don't use. I take my items to my sister's home for recycling or to other entities for recycling where there is no cost to me.

The "one size fits all" proposal doesn't work. You need to have exceptions.

Many recycle and handle their trash through other ways, like me, to save money and live within their means. Make recycling and trash services voluntary and an opt-in. For example, make recycling and trash services voluntary for people living alone, retired, disabled, those over age 60, part-year residents, and those having other means of disposal or recycling too.

I suggest you realize that certain populations need to be part of the exceptions.

Thank you for your time and attention.