

May 30, 1995

TO: All Member of the Board of Supervisors

The City as well as the State of California have policies to encourage reduced use of landfill space.

San Francisco has a Recycling office under the Chief Administrator. However, while on the one hand the city is encouraging recycling there is the Department of Public Works which is working against this policy. It does this by refusing to allow janitors to pick up recycled material.

What was once considered garbage is now considered recycled material. Our new methods of gathering this material is making it easier for janitors. At one time all paper of every description was tossed in a deskside trash can. Now workers take their paper to a central area. Most trash cans are now practically empty and far lighter than in the past.

In the Department of Social Services, we have gone beyond any city department in recycling every imaginable material from Styrofoam, cardboard, phone books, to color paper. We have wheeled barrels for newspaper, light cardboard and color paper. Sunset Scavenger now pick these up. However, they will not go floor to floor so we use volunteers to move these barrels to a central location for pickup twice a month. We have asked our janitors to do this but they refused.

Now, we are told that the city's paper contractor will pick up some of this material but not all. So, after many years of education and training in where what paper goes, we have to start all over. But worse of all we will again be throwing large amount of otherwise recycled material into the trash.

I suggest that the Board of Supervisors get together and have the janitors do the job for which they were hired despite the change of terminology. Trash is cash and we cannot afford to throw it away.

I would appreciate a response.

Sincerely,

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cc: Chief Administrator