

Date: March 25, 2021
To: Members of the Louisville Metro Council
From: Andrea Veach
Subject: Litter (written record of testimony that will be given at council meeting 3/25/2021 – 6:00 pm)

There seems to be general agreement that litter and trash left along the roadside is a big, wide spread, and consistent problem.

Many people believe there are others who will clean up after them. And they're right. It's the local governments through the taxpayers. However, it's very difficult and costly for the cleaner uppers to keep up with the people who trash the area.

According to a 2015 report prepared in partnership with the Foodservice Packaging Institute, Keep America Beautiful, Inc., and the National Restaurant Association, the most commonly found litter items are:

- 1) Cigarette butts
- 2) Food remnants
- 3) Food wrappers
- 4) Food containers
- 5) Beverage containers
- 6) Napkins
- 7) Paper, including straw wrappers

I recommended the following solutions:

1. Install more garbage bins and make sure pick-ups are done on a regular basis. The bins should be at all bus stops. This will, of course, require collaboration with the trash collectors in the local areas.

The Walt Disney Co. determined trash receptacles should be placed about every 25-30 paces for proper disposal. This would, of course, not be feasible on all public property, but it does show the importance of placing as many receptacles as possible.

2. Charge businesses, like convenience stores and fast food businesses, that sell food and drink designed not to be eaten on the premises an extra fee for their business license, dedicated solely for litter collection. Current code does not allow violations for litter not found on their premises. If it's off the businesses' property, it's no longer the business owner's responsibility to clean it up; it becomes the taxpayers' problem. In the case of Murphy Lane, the extreme amount of litter within a ¼ mile of Westport coincides with the businesses located there that sell food and drink not designed to be consumed on the premises. There is a vast difference between the

condition on the other end of Murphy Lane near Ballardsville, which has no such businesses.

Regarding Murphy Lane, I haven't seen any evidence the businesses that are profiting from the sale of the items that result in a large amount of litter attempt to clean it up.

I'm not suggesting that the taxpayers pay nothing for litter clean up; after all the litter is caused by the symbiotic relationship of the businesses and their customers. What I am suggesting is that along with the taxpayers, businesses that profit from items that contribute toward litter pay something toward clean up.

Regarding the argument that charging businesses a fee for something they have no control over is unfair, my response is that charging a fee to a seller of items that will partially end up on the road is more fair than not charging them anything at all. Right now, taxpayers are the ones solely required to pay for the resulting mess. Is that fair?

So, again, the suggestions are an increased number of waste bins, placed at strategic locations (including bus stops), picked up regularly and an additional license fee for businesses that sell food and drink designed not to be consumed on the premises.

Thank you for allowing me to speak with you.