

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE April 25, 2014

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life & Environment Committee: Dwaine R. Caraway (Chair)
Sandy Greyson (Vice Chair), Adam Medrano, Rick Callahan, Carolyn R. Davis, Lee M. Kleinman

SUBJECT Storm Water Pollution Preventive Efforts

At the February 24th Quality of Life & Environment Committee meeting, Councilmember Caraway asked for staff to brief the Committee on current efforts and ways to improve the preventing the blowing of grass cuttings and leaves into storm drains by landscape services and city vendors.

In an effort to prevent stormwater pollution, the Department of Street Services regularly inspects and monitors their contractor's mowing operations to ensure they comply with the city's ordinance of not blowing grass clippings into storm drains. As a direct response to the question raised, Street Services contacted their city vendors and reminded them not to blow grass clippings into storm drains. They also continue to regularly train their staff to follow environmental standards as it pertains to inlet protection during mowing operations.

Code Compliance continues to inform landscape companies they encounter of the prohibition of blowing lawn debris in the street and drainage areas. In response to the question raised, Code directed its inspectors to immediately write citations to those observed disobeying the ordinance instead of issuing notices of violations. In addition, they contacted their contractors to re-educate them on the ordinance and to reiterate that violations of the ordinance will not be allowed. In March of 2014, Code issued two citations in which the contractors were both caught in the act of leaf blowing in the street.

Stormwater Management provides quarterly training to landscaping businesses in Dallas. The firms are identified through a review of Bidding and Procurement Services contracts and other research. They also participate in the training of new code inspectors. In addition, Stormwater Management provides general public outreach and education to communities and homeowners associations upon request.

Directors from Street Services, Code Compliance, and Stormwater Management will be present at the April 28th Quality of Life & Environment Committee meeting to answer any questions.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joey Zapata".

Joey Zapata

Assistant City Manager

c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary

Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager
Charles M. Cato, Interim Assistant City Manager
Theresa O'Donnell, Interim Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer

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Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, Interim First Assistant City Manager

Shawn Williams, Interim Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor & Council