



City of Dallas

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
Dallas City Hall – 1500 Marilla, L1FN Conference Room “C”
Regular Meeting
November 3, 2008
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

*****REVISED MINUTES*****

Members Present

Sheron C. Patterson
Diane Benjamin
Cheryl S. Camin
Jon (Tad) Heimbürger
Keith Kwoh
Meredith McQuiston
Susan R. Rader
Mary Warner

Members Absent

Sylvia Lagos
David J. Metzler
Reginald Seastrunk
Linda Sharp
Mandy Valasek
Kedra Williams

Staff Present

Kevin Lefebvre, Office of Environmental Quality
Kim Affat, Office of Environmental Quality
Nicole Cooper, Office of Environmental Quality
Mary Hammer, City Attorney's Office
David Howe, City Attorney's Office

Public Present

None

Minutes

Ms. Sheron C. Patterson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m. Minutes from the October 6, 2008 were approved unanimously with minor changes.

Big City Crushed Concrete

Kevin Lefebvre, Office of Environmental Quality

Mr. Lefebvre informed the commission that Big City Crushed Concrete is been in Dallas for 20 years. So far, they have recycled over 20 million tons of concrete. They have five locations in the DFW area. Two of those locations are in Dallas. Big City Crushed Concrete also has portable facilities. One of those portable facilities was used at the American Airlines Center during its construction. Big Town Mall was also another portable location. Their municipal sites for recycling concrete for municipal activities are located in Grand Prairie, Lewisville and Mesquite. According to Big City Crushed Concrete, they have no complaints issues or violations with TCEQ.

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Benefits of this company are that they reduce illegal dumping of concrete. It is a free service to dump concrete. The costs for their services are captured at the resale of the aggregate materials that they sell once it is crushed. Compared to our city landfill, McCommas Landfill charges \$19 a ton or \$400 a load. It is less expensive to use Big City Crushed Concrete. The company accepts city projects, roadways, and building debris.

Benefits of a site near the city core are: reduced traffic to the landfill, reduced hauling cost and air pollution resulting from less travel miles, and reduced illegal dumping around the city. A centralized location of this service may help with costs of growth and revitalization of downtown and the Trinity Corridor Project. There is talk that the Forest Avenue site could eventually be forced out due to the Trinity development plan. The future location(s) for this sustainable resource business should consider the improved air quality from fewer vehicle miles traveled and the lower service cost of a nearby site.

Tad Heimburger mentioned that this issue is broader than just the concrete crushing business. Other types of industrial waste and recycling business such as oil and grease recycling are essential to a thriving metropolitan economy. These businesses are often shunned by city planners and fall victim to “not in my backyard” (NIMBY). A planned industrial zone, not adjacent to a residential area, is important for the future growth of Dallas. After much discussion, the commission decided to monitor and research the situation a few more months and then bring to the commission possible alternatives.

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Anti-Idling Ordinance

Nicole Cooper, Office of Environmental Quality

Mrs. Nicole Cooper informed the commission that the ordinance by the City Council was passed on May 23, 2007. The premise of it is that it prohibits vehicle operators that have a gross weight of over 14,000 lbs from idling more than five minutes. The ordinance is effective from April to October of each year. There are certain exemptions within the ordinance that relate to vehicle type and operation.

Mrs. Cooper also mentioned that diesel emissions have been cited as causing health problems such as cancer, heart attacks, cardiovascular disease, emphysema and asthma. In February, the City of Dallas signed a memorandum of agreement with TCEQ. It basically transferred enforcement authority from the state to the city.

The Office of Environmental Quality initiated a four month education campaign from January to April of 2008. The first step was to set up the process with the city’s 3-1-1

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for residents that call and want to report an idling vehicle. If a marshal sees idling taking place, a citation will be given to the driver. If not, a warning letter is mailed to the citizen informing them of the new ordinance and that a citation will be issued if a marshal sees

the citizen violating the ordinance. The fine for the violation is up to \$500. Brochures and signs were also provided to the seven truck stops in Dallas as well as trucking businesses. The website on the idling ordinance was launched. The website address is www.engineofdallas.com. Letters were sent to companies and organizations to inform their drivers about the ordinance and requested that signs and brochures be distributed.

The first month of enforcement was in April 2008. Marshal's Office issued warnings to truck drivers along with a brochure. OEQ gave signs to truck stops at no charge and as many as the truck stop owners wanted. Any business that wanted a sign, OEQ provided them with one sign at no charge and additional signs for \$34 per sign.

Staff provided training on the ordinance to twenty marshals. The citations are used by the Marshal's Office. The penalty is a fine not to exceed \$500. Before the citation is issued, the Marshal's Office takes a photograph of the idling vehicle for court purposes. The total number of citations issues since May 2008 is 113. The Marshal's Office has identified that the primary violators of this ordinance are delivery trucks and trucks at truck stops.

The commission will determine who the proper person is at the Texas legislature to contact and write a letter in support of the Idling Ordinance. Mrs. Cheryl Camin will provide an update on this topic at the next Environmental Health Commission meeting. Dave Howe, City Attorney, mentioned that it would be prudent to provide a draft commission letter to the council committee to avoid possible conflicting requests to the legislature.

A copy of the presentation was not provided to the commission.

Commission Reports

None

Staff Reports

Mr. Kevin Lefebvre informed the commission that they have not received any applications for the Mayoral Environmental Excellence Award.

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Mrs. Lilia V. Gonzalez invited the commission to the 1st Annual "Passport to Health" Diabetes Awareness Expo and Luncheon. It was held on Wednesday, November 5, 2008.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.