

October 16, 2020

Whatcom County Council
311 Grande Avenue
Suite 105
Bellingham WA 98281

Sent via E-mail
council@co.whatcom.wa.us

Re: Mandatory Curbside Service Levels

Dear Council:

On Thursday October 15, 2020, the Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee (PRCAC) voted at its regularly scheduled meeting (3-1-1(absent)) in favor of the following Motion:

The PRCAC hereby requests council to amend the current ordinance which mandates curbside residential garbage collection to reflect a change from 26 32-gallon cans variable to 12 32-gallon cans variable on an annual basis to better meet the needs of our community. We ask that WCC 8.10.040, subsection D, be amended to:

D. Effective January 1, 2021, single-family residences located in Point Roberts, with on-site sewage systems, shall no longer be exempt from mandatory curbside collection services. As a minimum level of service, the minimum required curbside collection service shall be 12 annual pickups, to occur at the discretion of the customer on any day of the approved every other week garbage collection schedule, of a 32-gallon can and three-bin source separated recyclables. The cost of the minimum level of service, as per the approved UTC tariff, shall be billed as an annual fee on the property tax bill, at the rate of one minimum level of service per single-family residence. Service levels above the minimum level of service, as may be requested of the service provider, for larger cans, increased frequency of pickup, carry out or other services, will be invoiced directly by the service provider as per the approved UTC tariff.

We note that Whatcom County policy, as expressed in its 2008 Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan, makes waste reduction and recycling the preferred methods of handling solid waste. To quote from Whatcom County Code on Solid Waste and Residential Recycling Collection, Chapter 8.10.010B “Certain service levels and rate structures for solid waste and recycling collection are hereby established in Whatcom County to further the objectives of the plan, including a high level of waste reduction and recycling; to ensure the provision of such solid waste collection and disposal systems and services as are in the public interest; and to secure a healthful environment for all citizens of Whatcom County”

The PRCAC will continue to discuss these issues within our community and work to further these shared goals in solid waste management. To that end, we currently are working with Beth Chisholm of WSU Extension in a series of online workshops which start October 22, 2020.

Thank you,

Stephen T. Falk

Stephen T. Falk
Chair, PRCAC