

**Office of the
Ninth District Alderman
Pete Karas**



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June 29, 2007

To: Mayor Becker and the Racine Common Council,

Re: Expanded recycling

I would appreciate the opportunity to appear before the Public Works and Services Committee to discuss the drafting of a resolution that would expand the current recycling rules to include public and private events held in the City of Racine.

In addition, I would appreciate the opportunity to address the Board of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services to discuss a change in policy that would place recycled waste disposal containers next to trash containers in City Parks.

Below is a request from a concerned resident that states the reason for the change and includes some suggestions.

Ald. Pete Karas

Resident email referred to above:

Hi Pete,

We talked last year about getting mandatory recycling into the city's permit process for public events. After all, it's the law and I'm especially troubled by the disposal of beverage containers, usually plastic and aluminum.

Harborfest had no options for recycling even though Sierra Club has purchased and donated recycling units for the Festival site. A friend of mine actually had security tell her that she could not carry the empty plastic bottles out of the grounds and told her that she had to throw them away. She won, but this is a sign of a problem that needs to be addressed.

Lighthouse Run always leaves a gazillion plastic bottles either in the street at the start line or in the paper recycling bin that Olympia Brown shares, which is adjacent to the start line.

The Dragon Boat event is coming soon and, in the past, there hasn't been recycling options there either.

There are some suggestions from the DNR recycling people that make sense. Every recycling container needs a trash can next to it. Every trash can needs a recycling container next to it. It never works without the two together. Trash cans are open top and recycling containers have covers with the small holes on top with labels. The ones at Festival Hall are free-standing wire frames with cover. They are supposed to use clear bags so that folks can see that recyclables are in there.

What other things do we need to consider? Cost of containers, I suppose. Could there be a surcharge on permit fee to help pay for them? You mentioned that this could happen without a Council resolution. Let me know how we can make this happen.