

MOTION

In July 2017, the City's Bureau of Sanitation implemented the RecycLA Program designed to effectively manage solid resources collection among commercial, industrial businesses and multi-family buildings. A key objective of the RecycLA Program is to significantly increase the City's recycling rate, thereby allowing it to obtain its zero waste goals.

The RecycLA Program consists of 11 exclusive franchise zones with each zone serviced by a private solid resources collection firm. Under the terms of the Program, each firm is required to provide efficient collection, processing and recycling of materials.

Much of the Program's recycling objectives were predicated on the ongoing purchase of recyclable materials by Chinese firms. For years, Chinese firms have purchased and reused a significant share of the world's recyclable materials. However, in January 2018, the Chinese government implemented a new policy effectively banning most recyclable materials from entering its Country.

China's recycling ban has chilled the international recycling market and has the potential to effect the City's RecycLA Program and its zero waste objectives.

Currently, it is unclear how the recycling ban has impacted the RecycLA Program. Are the private solid resources collection firms continuing to process recyclable materials as the Program requires; or are they landfilling these materials? What is the potential cost of the ban on the operations of these firms and how will they deal with limited recycling markets? What options exist to create and foster new recycling markets in order to ensure the Program's long-term objectives?

These are the kinds of questions that need to be answered in order to ensure the City's interests are protected and its zero waste goals obtained.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) report to the Council in 30 days on China's recycling ban and the effect, if any, that it has had on the RecycLA Program, the private solid waste collection firms and their recycling of materials; including its cost impact on their operations and how these firms are dealing with limited recycling markets.

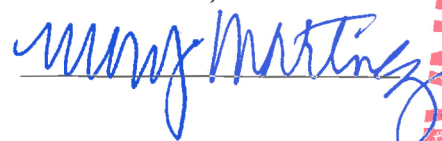
I FURTHER MOVE that the BOS report on steps it can take, as the administrator of the RecycLA Program, to monitor recycling rates and ensure compliance with the Program's terms.

I FURTHER MOVE that the BOS report on options to create and foster new recycling markets in order to ensure the RecycLA Program's objectives and requirements are met.

PRESENTED BY:


MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY:


Mary Martinez


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ORIGINAL