



Accountability - Dedication  
Honesty - Integrity - Respect

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** 4/21/26  
**TO:** Tara Vasicek, City Administrator  
**FROM:** Capt. Douglas Molczyk  
**RE:** Handling of Solid Waste Ordinance

**RECOMMENDATION:**

To adopt the changes in ordinance § 50.35, changing it from Burning of Garbage to Handling of Solid Waste. Also, changing the ordinance requiring that solid waste be properly disposed once a week, either by a licensed hauler or the person responsible for the property.

**DISCUSSION:**

The purpose of this memorandum is to recommend the revision of Ordinance § 50.35 to increase its scope and improve the regulation of solid waste within the City of Columbus.

**Current Ordinance:**

The existing ordinance § 50.35, titled "*Burning of Garbage*," states:

"It shall be unlawful for any person to burn garbage or refuse within the limits of the city."  
(Prior Code, § 50.40) (Ord. 88-11, passed 3-21-1988) Penalty, see § 50.99

While this provision prohibits the burning of garbage, it is limited in scope and does not address broader solid waste handling practices that impact public health, sanitation, and community standards.

**Proposed Revision:**

It is recommended that § 50.35 be repealed and replaced with a new ordinance titled "*Handling of Solid Waste*," which expands regulatory authority to include the proper storage, removal, and disposal of solid waste. The proposed ordinance includes the following key provisions:

- Prohibits accumulation or disposal of solid waste in a manner that creates a nuisance or health hazard
  - Requires weekly removal and proper disposal of solid waste
  - Allows disposal through a licensed hauler or transport by the responsible party to the City Transfer Station
  - Establishes container requirements to prevent leakage, odor, and animal access
  - Prohibits open dumping and maintains the prohibition on burning of solid waste
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- Assigns responsibility for compliance to the property owner, occupant, or person in control
- Requires transported waste loads to be properly secured or covered

**Rationale:**


The proposed changes reflect modern waste management practices and provide clear, enforceable standards to:

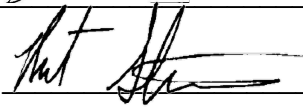
- Improve public health and sanitation
- Reduce nuisance conditions such as odors, pests, and debris
- Enhance overall community appearance
- Align local regulations with common municipal and environmental standards

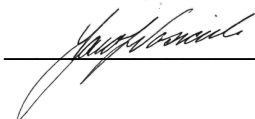
**FISCAL IMPACT:** None seen

**ALTERNATIVE:** Continue on with the old ordinance.

**SIGNATURE:**

By:  \_\_\_\_\_

Approved By:  \_\_\_\_\_

Approved By:  \_\_\_\_\_

§ 50.35 ~~BURNING OF GARBAGE.~~

~~—It shall be unlawful for any person to burn garbage or refuse within the limits of the city.~~

~~(Prior Code, § 50.40) (Ord. 88-11, passed 3-21-1988) Penalty, see § 50.99~~

**Handling of Solid Waste**

(A) No person shall accumulate, store, or dispose of solid waste upon any property in a manner that creates a nuisance, health hazard, or violates state or local regulations.

(B) All solid waste generated on any property shall be removed and properly disposed of at least once per week. Disposal shall occur by:

1. A licensed private waste hauler; or
2. The owner, occupant, or person responsible for the property transporting such waste to the City of Columbus Transfer station.

(C) Solid waste shall be stored in suitable containers designed to prevent leakage, odor, and access by animals.

(D) Open dumping and the burning of solid waste are prohibited within the limits of the city.

(E) The owner, occupant, or person in control of the property shall be responsible for compliance with this section.

(F) All loads of waste transported to the City of Columbus Transfer Station in vehicles shall be covered; provided, however, this requirement shall not apply when the entire load of waste is of such bulk that it is unlikely that any of such waste will blow out of or fall out of the vehicle when being driven at the speed of 55 miles per hour.

Penalty, see § 50.99