

Ellis Robert

From: Ellis Robert
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2009 7:57 AM
To: Kooiker Sam (RapidNet); Wright Jerry; Blaise Emerson; Patti Martinson
Cc: Hanks Alan; Ellis Robert
Subject: RE: Landfill issues

All,

We spent a great deal of time yesterday investigating this matter and I am confident in saying there exists no collusion to defraud the City Landfill between either Fish Garbage Service or our landfill attendants. Jerry Wright and John Leahy (Landfill Supervisor) met with Cliff Fish, Fish Garbage Service, to discuss the issue. Cliff stated he is not fully aware of all of the details in regards to the individual loads, but stated that they did not haul any concrete, block, or steel from the building at East Main and Maple (the one that exploded). They only hauled the roof structure, wood debris, charred debris, etc. This would have included shingles, so the declaration by the driver of a shingle load appears to have been reasonably accurate. The likely reason for four loads was because the shingles were still attached to the roof where in normal shingle haul loads they are detached. Also, for a 30 yard container the Landfill Attendant cannot peer into the dumpster to verify the load because of viewing height restrictions (the container is higher than the attendants' perch). As a result, the drivers declaration is instrumental in determining load content. Also, the Landfill Attendant is not aware of the origin of any particular load or the job they are coming from.

John and Jerry then brought Randy Miedinger, Landfill Attendant on the day in question, in for an interview. Randy was accompanied by Union representation. Randy was asked directly how he treats the customers of the landfill, and he said something to the effect, "I treat them all the same". Jerry even more directly asked him if he was, or is, on the "take" with Fish Garbage Service, and he said "No". Jerry and myself take Randy for his word and John has further stated he has no reason to believe that Randy is a dishonest person. Randy has been a very good employee and has a positive track record with the Solid Waste Division.

The weights from the electronic scale cannot be adjusted. However the tickets can be, on an as needed basis. A "manual adjustment" or "manual weight ticket" can be generated by the operator, but on a relatively rare occasion. A manual ticket is generally only printed for minimum disposal charges, which are usually for residential/non-commercial customers, or if there is an error in a ticket they can be manually changed. An example of this is when the wrong material ID or container number were entered, these will show as edited tickets. For commercial customers manual tickets are very rare. The scale read out is not adjustable. The tickets can be changed through editing by operator, but the landfill supervisor does a daily review of revenue, tickets, etc. and any consistent abuse would show up.

Fish Garbage Service, as referred to in the e-mail below, hauls for Merillat where most of the alternative cover loads come from. We have approved the use of this Material ID for a long time as a reasonable way of reusing a material for landfill cover. Because we reuse this material (which saves us in purchasing an alternate landfill cover material, hauling it from somewhere else within the landfill, and reduces landfill content) those loads have the tipping fee waived. This has been done for quite awhile to assist our operations and to help the local business and industrial community to hold down their costs. All haulers were notified of this practice via a letter perhaps a couple of years ago.

The different rate for concrete and for shingles are most fair as the density of these two products far exceed that of municipal garbage. It would simply not be fair to charge a local customer the full tipping fee for concrete that weights about 4 times that of garbage. The same position can be taken with shingles, that is why we originally developed the different fees and have continued to support them.

I hope this information is helpful in understanding this issue and the policy questions. Please contact me directly if you have any further questions.

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