

**COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
PUBLIC HEARING - BAG & TAG**

**April 11, 1996**

**7:00 PM**

Chairman Robert called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

**Present:** Ald. Robert, Wihby, Reiniger, Clancy, Domaingue

Alderman Reiniger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silent prayer is observed.

Chairman Robert advised that the purpose of the public hearing was to hear comments relative to the creation of a Solid Waste Enterprise including the implementation of a "Bag & Tag" system as the primary financing mechanism and requested Frank Thomas, Director of Public Works, to provide a brief presentation.

Chairman Robert advised that Mayor Wieczorek wished to speak since this was his initiative that he has made for fiscal year 1997.

Mayor Wieczorek stated It is kind of strange seeing everybody sit this far away. I just wanted to say to everybody that this is perhaps the most difficult budget that I have had to work with. And this is the seventh budget that I have prepared for the City, and it was extremely difficult to get this prepared. One of the problems we have, of course, is that some of the items are going up, some of our revenues are a little bit short, and we have some brand new things that have been introduced this year that we did not have before. For example, we have to dispose of our trash, we talked for a long, long, time about trash and we knew that at some point we were going to have to do something. Some of you that I see here certainly were around when they were talking about incinerators and everything to try to dispose of the trash. Well it is very difficult to get a decision made when your back is to the wall, and ladies and gentlemen, I will tell you our back is to the wall. July first, that landfill is going to close and we are going to have to dispose of that trash. We have contracted with Waste Management, the cost is about

\$1,800,000.00 and that is to take the trash to Rochester, we have recycling program that is costing us about \$400,000.00. So here we have 2.2 million dollar of new expenses that we would not have if we still had a landfill that we could still use or if we were able to find another landfill. All of you know the difficulty we have when ever we talk about a site for a landfill we ask any alderman what ward would you like it in, I can assure you I have twelve people saying "not in my ward". Well we still make garbage and we still have to dispose of it. So this was the very best thing that I could see that we could come up with. As it is now, the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Highway Department and the School Department, those four departments comprise about 85% of our budget. So now we are left with all the other departments that account for about 15%. The question is after six budgets that we have done, where we have been cutting and trimming and trying to consolidate, doing all the things that we possibly can, we are pretty much at the end with all of those things. Now we are at the point where we would be talking about cutting services. The question then is what services do you want cut? Do you want to cut the Police Department, should we cut the Fire Department so that stations would close, should we have 35 or 38 or 40 kids in a class, or what do we do with the Highway Department and our trash? This is the dilemma that we find ourselves in. In looking at the situation I thought probably the best thing we could do is try to develop a program where we will have the bag & tag. A lot of people as soon as you talk about bag & tag, say "I don't want to do that, I still want to have it on my tax bill" but the city really only picks up half the trash, the other half is already picked up by private contractors. If you have a condo association, a mall, a commercial establishment, usually you see the dumpsters out there. They are paying to have their trash taken away, they are also paying in the tax rate to have your trash taken away. Now rather than just take some of it out, the thought here was to remove all of the solid waste costs from the tax rate, so that it would all be pretty much as an enterprise. We here people say "well, I can't deduct it from my taxes". But we have several things to look at. Let's look at deducting it from your taxes. Let's say you have a \$100,000.00 house, it is going to cost \$132.00 more to continue to have your trash picked up. We already have a \$132.00 tax increase, this would add another \$132.00 and that would be for every \$100,000.00 or \$1.32 or \$2.64 for each thousand dollars that we have. So we are faced with a lot of brand new problems. Now the amount that you save when you are talking about your tax bill, people always think that the full amount that the tax bill represents which is a deduction for you, is

actually the money. That isn't the money, that is a deduction. The money that it is actually going to cost out-of-pocket is whatever your tax bracket is. If you don't file the long form, you don't get any deduction. And if you do file the long form, then it is whatever your tax bracket is, if it is 14% and its a hundred dollars, that is \$14.00, that is a hundred dollar deduction, but it only represents \$14.00. If it is two hundred and it is 14% it is \$28.00. And if you are in the 28% tax bracket, then you are talking \$28.00 for that hundred. This is really how it works. We thought what we would try to do is bring some equity to the program, to try it, to see if it is going to work. We finally brought in a recycling program, the estimate is that we would be recycling approximately 15%. Well, with the solid waste situation that we are faced with now, we hope that that will encourage people to do more recycling, because with the recycling that you do, it does not go into the solid waste stream, will never wind up in Rochester, but will end up with Waste Management recycling the bottles, plastic, cans, newspaper, etc. We would like to encourage people to do more of that, because if you do, you will have less solid waste. For people who are living in a home by themselves, or a couple, I doubt like heck that you could probably fill a thirty pound bag, it would probably be a fifteen pound. So when you take a look at all of the items that are concerned there, I think you would find that you would make out a little bit better. The City of Worcester, which is very comparable to Manchester except it is almost twice as large, but basically is the same type of community, with the same multi-unit dwellings that we have. Some how, some way they always get things done. Dover, in New Hampshire, and I wish I could have had the former City Manager who was involved in this program here today, because he could really explain to you what happened in the City of Dover. I think I will ask him to come to one of our Aldermanic meetings so that he can explain to the Board how that program works. I hope that all of you will have an open mind to this process, because we are facing a real problem. If we are going to keep making trash, we are going to have to keep disposing of it. The question is how are we going to do it. I would like, if Chairman Robert so wishes, to have Mr. Frank Thomas give his presentation now.

Mr. Thomas stated the City has had for many years the benefit of low cost solid waste disposal at the Dunbarton Road Sanitary landfill as mentioned by the Mayor. In fact in many past years the landfill generated a sizable surplus revenue which went back to the City to offset some other operating costs. This is all coming to an end on July 1 with the closing of the landfill. As a

result the City is now faced with over 2 million dollars of new solid waste transfer, haul and disposal costs. In addition the City is now going to be losing the revenues that we were able to generate from the landfill operation. Those revenues equate to approximately \$600,000.00 per year. Going back four or five years ago we were generating 2.5 million dollars. So you can see in addition to these solid waste costs, we have also lost revenues. As the Mayor also mentioned that the recycling does benefit the City. The more recycling that is done, the lowering of future disposal costs will result. However, recycling is a new cost to the City that has just recently been experienced. So here we have new solid waste transfer disposal costs, losses of revenues and the additional costs of recycling so there has been a tremendous increase in the cost solid waste services here in the City. These new solid waste costs, along with ever increasing demands on the City's limited tax dollar is the reason why the Mayor has proposed the creation of a solid waste enterprise operation funded with a pay per bag program. What is a "Bag & Tag" program? A bag & tag program is a user fee, a user fee charges for the actual amount of the service used. Similar to electric, telephone, sewer, water bills. Bag & Tag programs are nothing new, over 2,000 communities across the United States have implemented some type of solid waste user fee program. There are presently thirteen communities in New Hampshire that have bag & tag programs up and running. As the Mayor mentioned, Dover was the first and is the largest of the New Hampshire bag & tag programs. Massachusetts, as of December, 1994, had over 40 communities involved with some type of solid waste user fee programs. As mentioned, Worcester, Massachusetts, which has a similar mix of multi-families, implemented a bag & tag program approximately two years ago that has proven extremely successful. Presently, Manchester homeowners pay for the cost of solid waste services out of their property taxes based on the assessment of their property, which has nothing to do with the amount of trash that is generated. The generation of trash has no relation to property assessments. A person under the bag & tag program would pay for solid waste services based only on the volume of trash that they generate. Key elements of a successful bag & tag program are charge free curbside recycling and yard waste collection programs. These charge free programs allow the person the ability of somewhat controlling his own destiny when it comes to paying for solid waste services. A person who maximizes his efforts to recycle will minimize his cost for solid waste. While a person who doesn't recycle will pay his fair share of the City's costs for solid waste disposal. Renters presently do not directly contribute to the

costs of solid waste services and as such have no reason to reduce solid waste costs, unless they are environmentally aware, unless they really want to pursue recycling. But yet, the multi-family properties typically generate more solid waste than an equally assessed single family property, and there is no great mystery about that. Typically there are more occupants in a multi-family dwelling. So both properties that are assessed equally presently pay the same for solid waste services. A Bag & Tag program, besides allocating solid waste costs in a fair and equitable manner, promotes recycling. Other municipalities have seen a 40% to 50% increase in their recycling efforts with a bag & tag program. Our program anticipated that we would achieve 15% reduction in the waste stream in the first year of the recycling program, we do have hopes that will reach 20% in a year. If we are achieving 20% in a bag & tag program as instituted, we should be able to expect at least a 30% reduction in the waste stream and that ultimately equates to a savings in these transfer, hauling and disposal costs. I would like to give an example of what I have just mentioned. If you take three properties, two single family homes and one multi-family home, and if you pick these three properties and they were all equally assessed, now if you assume that a widower or one person lives in one of the single family homes, a family of four lives in the other single family home, and eight occupants live in the multi-family dwelling. Presently they all pay the same amount for solid waste services, and obviously the single person or widower is going to generate a lot less waste than the multi family. Under the Bag & Tag program, with a recycling effort, the widower or elderly couple, we would anticipate would generate one small fifteen gallon trash bag a week. The family of four we would anticipate somewhere between one and two of the large bags a week, where the multi family would generate a mix of bags, but again would relate to somewhere between three or four bags a week. Equating that fact to dollars, the widower would be paying approximately \$1.20 a week for trash services, the family of four would be paying about \$3.00, and the multi family would be paying about \$5.00. So you can see, the cost associated with these services would be based on amount generated, and obviously the amount of solid waste generated is going to be based on the amount of people generating it. How will the proposed Bag & Tag program work. Residents will be required to set out their trash only in special designated plastic bags, two sizes, which are displayed here, or with a tag or sticker for bulky items such as furniture or appliances. The larger is a 30 gallon size and the smaller is a 15 gallon size. Improper containers would not be collected. The bags and distribution services would be

contracted by the City through the normal procurement process so we would contract with a wholesaler to furnish and distribute the bags. The bags would be sold to residents by local retailers who will make a small profit from handling the bags. We are proposing .02 cents handling charge, and that is not a lot, but we feel retailers will want to carry the bag because the benefit in increased consumer traffic into their establishments. Revenues will come back to the City by the contracted distributor. Residents who periodically have a lot of trash, who don't want to get involved with trying to stuff this material into bags, can bring their trash to the proposed City's drop off facility, which will be located on Dunbarton Road, which will be available from July 1. At that drop off area you would be charged a reasonable fee most likely based on weight. Bag costs, how will the bag costs calculate? There is really no magic to that either, you take all the solid waste costs, and as the Mayor mentioned, by setting up an enterprise fund he has taken all solid waste costs, that's collection, the operation of the drop off area, the recycling costs, transfer and haul costs, and the yard waste costs, out of the operating budget, now you take that number and add to that the cost of the bag program, buying the bags, the administrative costs, the enforcement personnel. You divide that by the number of bags that would be needed to take care of the amount of trash that will be generated, and divide by the number of bags and come out with the bag costs. On these calculations the cost of the bags for the City program is \$1.60 for the large bag, and \$1.20 for the small bag. Illegal dumping is always a major concern when a municipality is considering a bag & tag program. However from researching this issue and speaking to municipalities such as Dover and Worcester, illegal dumping never became a significant problem. The key to minimizing this problem is education. Education backed up with enforcement with the ability to fine, along with a commitment by the community to enforce the requirements. It isn't anticipated with this program to use gestapo like tactics. Education is the key, however the City is going to want to have the power to enforce legal dumping and make people conform to the program if it is adopted. It is not going to work if conscientious people take part in the program and you have those that want to cut corners and try to avoid it. The enforcement is important but education is the key. The initial enforcement during the start-up would be geared towards education, the City's bag & tag program provides for two full time enforcement personnel who, in addition to addressing illegal dumping issues, would follow collection crews and follow up with residents who are not conforming to the bag & tag policy. It would not be to knock

on your door and issue you a fine, it would be to state that the trash would not be collected because it doesn't have the proper container. We would then instruct you to take it out of the right-of-way until the next collection, and give you written information. In addition, enforcement powers at least initially, will be given to existing Highway Department supervisors and can also be given to other departments such as the Health Department, Housing Code, or Building Department. Again, to try to educate, we don't know what type of problems would initially develop but we would want to make sure that we cover all bases, so we want to make sure that we are going to have enough staffing to address the issues when they come up. If we don't need these people then fine. Worcester, when they started their program, initially engaged five full time enforcement officers, within six months, they eliminated two of the positions because they did not have the need for them. I don't want to make it clear that enforcement will be directed at the generators of solid waste, not the property owners per se, and this pertains more to the owners of multi-family property. Again it is going to be the responsibility of the tenant, the renter, to buy the bags and make sure they are put out properly. If there is a container that is not in the proper bag, we will research whose trash it is and track down the renter. However we would expect close cooperation with landlords because they also have a vested interest. Just because this program goes ahead it doesn't mean the landlords can wash their hands completely of the responsibility. There is still the potential for the bags to be ripped open, animals getting in them, if renters decide that they want to stockpile trash on their property out of site, we would want to work with the owners of the property. Low income issues, there have been a lot of issues raised about the impacts of this program on low income people. This area we are still looking at, but based on the City of Dover's solid waste plan, they have determined that the Federal Government has recognized a trash collection under a bag & tag program as a utility, tenants who qualify for Federal and State assistance are able to collect more assistance to offset the cost of the program. The Housing Authority, and again, this is right out of Dover's waste management plan, will be giving the choice on whether or not to include their tenants in a bag & tag program or to arrange for private dumpster collection services. So basically what Dover has been able to find, and what we would pursue is that at least the Manchester Housing Authority's property would be given the choice either to furnish the bags to their tenants or provide collection services and that is a cost that can be reimbursed back to the Housing Authority from the Federal Government. Low income residents covered by

welfare benefits residing in multi-family dwellings will be required to use whatever waste disposal system chosen by the landlord. Assistance may be provided through increased living allowances or through distribution of bags at reduced cost. The welfare department will qualify clients for additional assistance on a case by case basis. Again, that wording is directly out of Dover's waste management plan. We will be sitting down with the City's welfare department and either make arrangements to furnish them bags at potentially a reduced rate or to increase their operating budget.

Implementation schedule, we are looking at a three month period to have the bag & tag program up and running. This time frame is very optimistic and requires the support of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and fast tracking certain issues such as contracting for the purchasing and distribution of the bags, procurement and delivery of two pick-up trucks for the enforcement people, hiring and training of two enforcement personnel, and the most important, develop of and enacting bag & tag ordinances. That is the real key to the program and is normally a long process to develop an ordinance and get it enacted. So we would be looking for support from the Board in fast tracking that. In addition it is going to take time to develop a list of retailers who want to sell the bags, and over this three month period we would be educating the public as to how the program works. If the decision is made to go ahead with a bag & tag program, for every month, well, if the decision is made to implement this enterprise fund and bag & tag program in the next budget, for every month delay in getting the program up and running, \$385,000 must be appropriated on the tax side to make up for the loss of revenues. The Mayor's budget as prepared and submitted to the Board, assumes that this program will be up and running by August 1, 1996. To summarize, the bag & tag program will reduce the amount of solid waste, which must be transported elsewhere for disposal, by promoting recycling. The cost of solid waste services will be generated in a fair and equitable manner based on volume. The bottom line is to either fund 4.5 million dollars out of the tax rate or out of a user fee, the bag & tag program. At the door there was a handout that makes a comparison of the impacts of the solid waste costs directly on the tax rate based on various assessments and the impact of the bag & tag program to cover these solid waste costs. In closing I would like to say that you may be asking yourself how you are going to get all of your trash into one or two of these bags. I think what you have to keep in mind is the normal volume of household trash, if you take out the recyclables, will be reduced by 60%, so if there is an active recycling program the amount of solid waste will be reduced. Thank you.

Alderman Wihby stated Frank, one of the things people are saying when they call is “we are already paying enough taxes, we don’t want the trash fee” which tells me that they don’t understand that what this chart is trying to tell them is that there is going to be increased taxes because of that. Can you explain this?

Mr. Thomas answered right now, as the Mayor’s budget has been presented, it does not include any solid waste costs, and I believe the projected tax increase is approximately 4.5 %, if you add the cost of solid waste services back on to the tax rate, you have to add the top number on the handout sheet, \$4,335,874.00, which would relate to a 4+% additional tax increase.

Looking at the actual costs, if you have a property that is assessed at \$80,000.00, the increase over the taxes that you would be paying with the Mayor’s budget with a 4.5% increase, the additional cost for just solid waste services would be \$100 extra per year. In talking with the assessors office, they have indicated the average assessment for property throughout the City is \$100,000, if you fall into that category the additional taxed over and above everything that has been presented so far would be \$125 per year. Dropping down to the bag & tag plan, you can see that the parts of the bag & tag plan, or the total cost of solid waste services with a bag & tag plan, is more, and the reason for that is that we have to buy 3 million bags and hire two enforcement personnel, operations and administrative costs. Up above, when solid waste is on the tax rate, it is a defined number, if you have a \$100,000 assessment, you are going to pay that \$125, on a bag & tag, I cannot say exactly what you would be paying. It is going to depend on the type of effort you make in recycling. However, what we have tried to do is give an indication, a best guess indication that the average household, let’s put it this way, we know the number of bags that are going to be needed to haul away all of the trash that is going to be generated, and we know how many dwelling units, and we took the two and divided it, and came out with an average of 1.7 bags based on the average usage per household.

Obviously you would not be using 1.7 bags per week, that would come out to \$135 per year extra over and above the taxes you would be paying.

You’re going to have to make up your mind what kind of recycling effort you feel you can achieve which will relate to the bag usage. Once you have done that you can compare that to the yearly cost of solid waste services.

Chairman Robert stated I would like to set some ground rules before we begin to speak. Any member of the public may have two minutes to address the topic. A speaker cannot relinquish their allotted time to another speaker. A speaker will not be recognized to address this hearing a second time unless all who wish to speak have been called on to do so once. The Clerk reserves the right to turn off the microphone of a speaker who does not respect the rules of this public hearing. So that the Committee is able to hear from all attending tonight who might wish to speak, written testimony will be accepted and made available to the Committee in it's files, but may choose not to read that testimony into the record at the interest of time. If members of the public wish, they may leave written questions for additional information with the Clerk and we will see that someone from the Highway Department or this Committee answers your inquiry as soon as possible. At this time I will call from the sign up list to come forward to the nearest microphone when recognized, state their name and address for the record and provide comment.

My name is Gregory Janas, and I live at 1010 Page Street, Manchester. I have been involved in the solid waste program for a number of years. It has somewhat lapsed over the years because nothing has really gone on. We seem to drift into this crisis management all the time from our political leaders. I oppose this bag & tag program simply for the fact that there has never really been an education program and now you are talking about an education program that is going to solve the problem. But let me point out some of the taxes that I pay, a sewer fee, a gas tax for the roads, a registration tax on my truck, a tire tax, which is supposed to be for disposal of tires, a water fee, insurance for fire, a telecommunications tax, rooms and meals tax, I am not married and I have no children. So for all intents and purposes, I probably deserve a refund from the City. Let's look at the recycling program as it has been stated. About 55% of the waste stream is residential, yes if we were to look at the 15% as adjustment to 55% and 55% to 100%, we could see that we could easily, with recycling and composting, get a 60% or 70% recycling or composting program through the City. But now we are being told that if we take stuff to the landfill or the drop off center, we are going to have to pay another fee for it, which is just another tax. When you look at the components of recycling, and we can go into the bottle bill, or whatever else, but the real issue here is are we ever going to

get anything done on the solid waste program. And from all indications we are never going to have anything but crisis management. Seven years ago, Mayor, you did say, and campaigned on the idea that, you had a plan. Except for the fact that we had a volunteer program, and now we have drifted into this Waste Management program, there has been no plan and no real solving of the issue. My only question is on the bags, what if you put out a 30 gallon trash container, is that going to be picked up, or are you going to say “no, you didn’t pay your fair share again”? Thank you.

My name is Lloyd Basinow, I live at 503 Amherst Street, Ward 4. I am surprised tonight to see the Mayor is taking full responsibility for the bag & tag instead of blaming the assessors. Lately he has been blaming them for everything else. For over thirty years I have fought excessive spending schemes by City Hall bureaucrats. And tonight is no different. Today many of our elected and appointed public officials are supporting their own misplaced priorities and saying damn the priorities of the majority will of the taxpayers. The proposed bag & tag refuse proposal of the Mayor, along with this cable tax increase is nothing less than a cover up for misspent and misdirected, mismanaged public funds and to reduce the resulting projected tax increase. Mayor, the taxpayers are not fooled. We know that this bag & tag tax is to help make up for the anticipated shortfall expected for the Centerplex private revenue and to help cover up the loss of the rooms and meals revenue which you intend to divert to the Centerplex. I do not know what kind of ego trip some of you are on, but I do think it is time to come back down to earth and mingle with the common people of this community. Taxpayers and tenants alike of Manchester stand united against this newest imposition. It is time to bag, tag and gag the Mayor, not the taxpayers of this City.

My name is George Smith, I live at 102 Boynton Street. I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to say a few words. I am definitely against the bag & tag proposal as I understand it is a solid waste enterprise with the bag & tag program as the primary source of revenue. This pay as you throw system, as you want to call it, and I am basing it on \$1.60 for a typical family of four, will be charged each household on the amount of waste generated. Traditionally in Manchester the cost of solid waste services are funded through property taxes. But either way this is a tax increase, and we are really getting bagged on this proposal. Just as the Boston Tea Party littered the ocean, this solid waste will litter our streets. To quote from

previous speakers, the average tax is 29.63 per thousand, now according to the gentlemen, two bags with outstanding recycling efforts, would cost \$166.40. This is presuming the ideal situation and does not include relatives and friends visiting, or the Holidays. Maybe the answer is to have plastic bags at your door and as each guest leaves, have them take their own trash home so you will not have to pay for their trash allotment. Or your you could call it a "BYOBB", "bring your own bag and bottle" party. I think it would be more realistic to figure out the cost for us, the average homeowner's would pay roughly around \$200.00, this also, I would like to remind you, that the City incinerator closed in 1977, so we were not dragging our feet, you people were dragging your feet. I would like to point out some risks involved with the bag & tag program. First the cost per bag, we are presuming a family of four at \$1.60, but just like the rooms and meals tax, this will not be constant. This will go up, illegal dumping, litter, subject to animal attacks, man's best friend, odor and fly problem, plastic freezes to ground, not suitable for bulky or sharp objects, difficult to monitor and control, backyard burning, problem for users on a fixed income, back failure, help and cost passed on to tenants with no control. I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak, and may the good Lord take a liking to all of you, but not too soon.

My name is Shirley Frank and I represent the concerned taxpayers of Manchester, who are opposed to the bag & tag tax proposal. We said no before and we are saying no again. You are going to hire two full time enforcement men, as Mr. Thomas stated tonight, are you considering the salaries plus the health insurance which is at 90% for the City? Low income people, especially the welfare, you mentioned that the Federal Government takes care of it. We are the Federal Government, that is our money, so Mr. Mayor and all Aldermen, I wish you would take another look at your budget, maybe you can cut it another two or three percent. Thank you.

My name is George Morrissette, and I live at 45 Farmer Lane. I am in opposition of the tax because it is one of the most regressive tax and is directed to the people who can least afford it. It is an unfair tax because it is a fee, which goes up automatically every year because it does not come under the watchful eye of the taxpayer. It will be tough the first year, but I think the Mayor should continue his plan, and blame what really happened, is unreasonable increase in wages to people, to employees of the City, that is paid by people who haven't had a raise in five years. The Mayor should

continue his work of consolidation, I served eight years as a Water Commissioner, and many years on the Highway Department, I think that we should consolidate, a great deal more than what we have. I don't see why we should have a separate Parks & Playground department. We don't have to lay anybody off, it could be done through attrition. Somebody mentioned that this would encourage people to participate in the recycling program. It might help but I think the recycling program is not going to last too many years if you continue with out rules, right now a lot of the neighbors are laughing at it, they are not participating at all. You should have rules, why should one neighbor employ it but not the other. This new tax would be good for people like myself, who go to Florida in the wintertime, it would be good for many of the City employees, such as teachers, who choose to live out of town, or for people maybe in the rich wards of the City, but it is unfair because it is directed at the people who can least afford it. Thank you.

My name is Eric Zimmerman and I live at 63 Oakdale. I am hear to speak in favor of the Mayor's proposal to charge per bag for refuse disposal, a system in which I firmly believe. There are numerous reasons why a system such as this would be greatly beneficial to Manchester residents. The Mayor and Mr. Thomas have gone over most of them and I will just summarize a few. It would dramatically decrease the waste flow for environmental considerations and simultaneously lower disposal costs which will directly affect the future tax rate. It will encourage tremendous increase in recycling via City established systems or through private channels. It will expand innovative techniques for waste disposal such as back yard composting in order to achieve even greater savings. It will allow low waste generators such as single people or the elderly to be rewarded with costs creating a fairer system. It increases the possibility for start up of new businesses to compete in residential recycling and solid waste disposal if City costs become too high. Based on geological surveys, the typical landfill contains 30% to 40% paper. So just recycling this one waste product will have tremendous environmental impact in both the rate of landfill depletion and timber consumption. Volume reduction can further be accomplished by compacting of residential waste. While the dumping of trash by people who are not willing to recycle or pay the cost of disposal cannot be ruled out, it will be up to each of us to monitor our neighborhoods to make sure the effect of this activity is not overwhelming. Businesses and apartment complexes which currently use dumpsters and private collectors are most likely to be the major targets of illegal dumping. The money they should no

longer be charging for City pickup would help to defray their cost of more rigid monitoring of their facilities. While I see no logical reason for residents to be opposed to this plan, many people fear it because of an inherent distrust of government. Those people who believe that way don't believe the chart showing savings. The easiest way to counter this argument and the only way I, like many others, can support this plan, would be to run it as you plan to, as an enterprise. By that I mean that all expenses must be paid from this account, making the system completely self-supporting. Any money saved through citizens efforts in recycling or source reduction should be reflected in a decrease in bag & tag prices. Under a completely separate system, costs of disposal could more easily be determined and all or portions of the system could be privately bid out if the cost of City services were out of line. If you want support for this system, you must convince taxpayers that this is just not another trick to get money into the general fund while pretending to hold down the tax rate. Thank you.

My name is Phillip Therrien, and I live at 882 Beech Street. I have been a resident of this City all of my life. I am basically opposed to the plan, however, upon listening to more information I have found that there might be some good points to it. I am going to leave several questions to be answered by the Committee as soon as possible. I think other people would be interested to know this. Will an attempt be made in the future to start charging for yard waste? What is the history of fees in other cities from start-up to the present? What in the landfill was generating income and what happened to it? Who is now getting that income? I think a little more explanation of the system and what the reasoning for it is and answering more questions would help to sell the program. Thank you.

My name is Harold Levine. I am here tonight to speak in opposition to this particular plan. About five or six years ago I approached Mayor Wieczorek, I owned some real estate in Palm Beach County, Florida, I showed him my tax bill which at the time was \$50.00 per unit for a single family house. What the commercial end of it is, I don't know. And I thought at the time Mayor Wieczorek thought it was a tax but I felt even then there was nothing being done about putting money aside to close the landfill which we finally had to do and I guess we don't have the money. Right now in Palm Beach County, for all residential units it is \$85.00 per unit on my tax bill. I feel this is the way to go. What I heard of Mr. Thomas' presentation I thought was great, but we are creating another bureaucracy in the Highway

Department, we two men, we need secretaries, we need trucks, and I think the way to go right now, and nobody so far, even Mr. Thomas, has only addressed the residential end of this particular plan. I feel you must have something worked out for the commercial end, and this bag & tag right now would keep industry out of the City. Mr. Thomas also said with recycling at the present time I believe there is possibly a 15 or 20% reduction. I noticed in my neighborhood we all recycle. Has the Highway reduced the amount of scavenger service by 15 or 20%? As a taxpayer the way I would go, is I would prefer a \$50 or \$85 a year assessment just for the sanitation, rather than creating a whole new enterprise. Every body in the country is downsizing businesses but we in Manchester seem to want to increase. Thank you.

My name is Artemis Paras and I reside at 1275 Hanover Street. Members of the CIP Committee, your Honorable Mayor and other Aldermen present, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Hyman. I oppose this proposal bag & tag that comes out of the Mayor's budget and is under consideration by this committee for the following reasons. If the bag & tag is not adopted, the Mayor's office says, people will pay more in taxes. I oppose a proposal that targets the residential homeowners and tenants to incur unreasonable costs for trash bags for the generation of revenue for solid waste services. It is these prohibitive costs that become the added tax for this City's population. This added tax, a result of yearly costs for trash bags, is discriminatory. No other segment of the City is asked to accept user fees for other municipal services as a means to decrease the projected tax increase in half. User fees are nothing more than an added tax, yes, some payers will pay more through use fees allowing other tax payers to benefit from a decreased budget increase. Such a proposal is grossly unfair. Bag fees reduces a 9% tax increase to a 4.5% increase. Allow me to present the following scenario to you to illustrate that these user fees could have an adverse negative impact on the residents economic well being. In 1996 the price of a 30 gallon bag is \$1.60, last year it was projected to be \$1.25, in Worcester when the program started and an article passed at the CIP Committee it was only .50, the average household in the City could use three bags, the total yearly cost for bags would be \$250.00. Yearly increases can be expected. A home that pays currently \$3,000 for municipal taxes would face an increase of \$135 based on the 4.5% tax increase levied instead of the bag & tag proposal which reduces property taxes by 4.5%. Property taxes are deductible on income tax returns under itemized deductions. Bag & tag fees are not deductible.

Assuming that the homeowners in the 28% tax bracket, the net increase is \$135 dollars minus \$135 times 2,800 which equals \$135 minus \$37.80 which equals \$97.20. Now what are the savings to the homeowner. Will it be \$250 for the cost of the bags, minus the \$97.20 reflecting the net increase in property taxes reduced by the itemized deduction or \$152.80 on a three bag expenditure. This is the scenario I have created, and it's a pretty logical one and one which would be applicable. The bag & tag proposal will increase homeowners taxes at a higher rate than a 4.5% increase. It is this higher rate that I propose. It was unclear as to the revenues generated from the sale of the bags as to what specific solid waste service costs they would apply. The landfill, and I would hope that Mr. Thomas would answer that question. We don't know who is going to assume the cost of the landfill closure. Also mandatory recycling, I was told last year we can't enforce it. And now we have a non-mandatory recycling program and we are going to make people comply to meet the requirements of the bags? It just doesn't make sense. This is illogical logic. Also I am concerned about the compliance, I am concerned about ordinances that may establish fees for penalties and I am also concerned about minimizing and eliminating health standards in the City of Manchester by allowing trash to lie around because you didn't meet the requirements set forth by the program. I don't feel that this program has been thought well through. And I think that with better education and better effort it might work. But not in this manner. Thank you.

My name is George Sideris, and I live at 316 Linden Street. I am here as a concerned taxpayer. The April 3 edition of the Union Leader proclaimed in bold headlines "Wieczorek proposes tax fee and trash fee" now if you people have questions we have got answers. The idea of imposing a \$1.60 fee per trash bag is, to put it simply, a lot of garbage. This proposal is double indemnity. A double whammy against taxpayers. We agree with Alderman Domaingue when she says we already are being taxed for the service the City says it provides. To quote the Mayor "this is an excruciating experience for taxpayers". Simply put no matter how you slice it a tax is a tax is a tax. It's been said that a fool and his money are soon parted. I propose that taxpayers are not that foolish. I do not profess to be psychic, but if this proposal is passed I can foresee trash heaps piling up all over town. There are many of those who will discard trash throughout the City rather than pay the fee. For want of a more apt phrase, this proposal is dubbed "the creeping curse of unbridled imperialism". City Hall's loony

ideas have ranged from the Tooneyville Trolley proposal to building a fantasy island down the middle of Elm Street to the Bass Island boondoggle to Centerplex, and now to the \$1.60 trash fee. What is the next revelation? The traffic simply cannot afford it. Particularly upsetting to taxpayers is that City Hall has made a 180 degree turn and has become one of "them" from supposed fiscal frugality to a tax and spend philosophy. Thank you.

My name is Andrew Jackson and I live at 199 Westwood Drive. Much has been said in opposition to this bag & tag tax, so I won't go into too much of that. The idea has a little bit of merit. It still is a disguised tax any way you look at it. If you listen to the bureaucratic version of it I don't really know what is true, what it is going to cost us. We don't have any idea because generally you are not going to believe the bureaucrats anyway. Again I don't know what is truth. I can only ask when is it going to stop. When are the politicians going to listen to the constituents rather than to listen to the Chamber of Commerce or the special interest groups and do what is right. When are they going to start trimming the budget by cutting some of the City management. There is a lot of it there. Some of the benefits of the City employees. This is 1996 and almost all of your private enterprise, private industry has cut them. When are you going to do it and make up, otherwise we would not have this tax problem that we have got. Thank you.

My name is Walter Terry and I live at 153 Charlotte Street. I really don't know what to say because I have only been up here ten years. I am a misplaced Massachusetts-ite. The taxes are going up all the time and I don't know how many new houses have been built in the Manchester area. But that certainly must bring in more taxes than people are saying we are getting. Thank you.

My name is Ralph Chase and I live at 12 Fernand Street. I am not going to take up a lot of your time. I disagree with this idea. I think that the City fathers should take into consideration at least the four top levels of City employment possibly a five percent tax would take care of the whole thing. And certainly the City employees should be paying part of their benefits. Thank you.

My name is Don Pomeroy and I live at 255 Greeley Street in Manchester. I firmly believe that this bag & tag program does have some merit. But not operated as a City function. If we are going to do it, the homeowner should be able to contract on a competitive basis with an independent company to

get rid of their trash. I don't believe that the City knows how to run a program and run it cost effectively. That's my big problem with it. The second aspect of it is I have a problem with the plastic bags out where we are. I will guarantee you I will put out my trash tonight, it is in a solid plastic trash can, if it wasn't, by the time I get back there tonight it will be strewn down the street because of an animal getting to it. I don't believe you can put these plastic bags out and not have a lot of animal damage. The other aspect of it is, if we are going to reduce the City budget by 4 million dollars by incorporating a use fee for trash collection, that 4 million dollars should go towards reduction of the tax rate. As a senior manager told me one time when he presented me with my budget and I told him I can't do the job for this budget. He said "fine, I'll get somebody who can" maybe it is about time the taxpayers got somebody that could. Thank you.

My name is Jim Martin and I live at 442 Merrimack Street. Most of the thoughts and words that I have to say were said by others here earlier. But I just had a couple of things I wanted to mention. I own a couple of apartment buildings, and I'm not a major landlord or anything, but I do rent to people who are retired, who are schoolteachers, factory workers, and at the onset of the recycling program, these people, who I don't think are considered great environmentalists or anything, but they enthusiastically embraced the recycling program. So much so that one of my buildings, which is a four family, I had to put out over six barrels every week, and now is oftentimes less than one. Not even one barrel is put out for the trash. The recycling materials are put in these bins so neatly it is unbelievable. There is almost a competition amongst the tenants on who can do it better. I just wanted to say that I think the bag & tag program is a step in the right direction. I don't like my taxes going up, I think they are way too high as it is. When I look back ten or fifteen years ago, what the taxes were, it is unbelievable. And I project that ahead. I do think that the bag & tag is a step in the right direction. The other thought I had was I would like to know how the commercial businesses are going to handle this sort of thing. McDonald's, they generate incredible amounts of paper and so on. Thank you.

My name is Yvonne Doyle, and I live at 174 Oakhill Avenue. I am for the bag & tag program. The main reason is I do recycle and I do like the attitude and what this will generate. My name purpose for wanting it is also that it is directly controlled. I won't have control if it is done through my taxes. I can put out one bag if I recycle, when they didn't recycle and stopped the

plan I had to put out two garbage bags, now I am down to one because I do recycle. I have plastic bags I use now and the animals don't get into them because I put them into another container. So there are ways of getting out of areas that are having problems. I am really for this and I think we ought to do it. Thank you.

My name is Gerry Vachon and I live at 221 Riverbank Road. First of all I would like to echo the sentiments of Miss Artemis Paras who just gave a brilliant analogy of what the taxes would be. Here is a private citizen who has done more homework than what I have read in the newspaper from any politicians, and it always seems when I come to these meetings how eloquently these people speak, and they have done homework, and I'll say it again. I don't know why you don't ask these people to be on your panel. Because they seem to talk what we want to hear and it means the betterment of the citizens of Manchester. One key thing that everyone has said is that they are worried about the taxes. One key word that I seem to have missed tonight, and I have not heard it from the Mayor or anybody else, is service. Growing up in Manchester, one of the prides of Manchester citizens was that the City employees would take care of their own. Like the elderly, who might forget that trash day might be Thursday at 9:00 am, all they would have to do is call the Highway Department and someone would be back to collect their trash. Are they going to do this when it is privatized? Are we going to get this personal service. I know we got rid of the fire department ambulances, and the taxes didn't go down, the services went elsewhere. When we talk about the bags at \$1.60, are we going to see our taxes go down \$3.00 per thousand because now the Highway Department is not taking care of us. We are still increasing \$1.60, they are talking about camouflage, this is a camouflage here. I don't understand why we are here at the thirteenth hour again. The Mayor said six years ago we have to solve the problem of the dump, and now Frank Thomas is saying if we don't hurry, it is going to cost us \$385,000. I'm telling you, we go to the polls, take concerns to the elected officials and we are waiting until the last minute to decide what to do with our trash. I don't understand it, why are we here and why aren't the problems being solved and why aren't you reaching out to the resources of Manchester, who are willing to help you out and guide you in finding the right answer. It's privatization, like Mr. Basinow said earlier about how it is a cover-up for the Centerplex, if it is privatization that you want, Mayor, let the private industry put their own money into that

Centerplex, let's not put it on the backs of the citizens to become a white elephant. Thank you.

My name is Bob Martel and I live at 95 Linda Lane in Manchester. Something that hit me as I was sitting in the audience tonight is that the cost of the bags are \$1.60 and that is going to relate to \$135.00 per household if someone uses two or three bags a week. Who is paying for the bags? We are. Now it has to be a .20 or .25 charge on those bags that the City is not going to get. The City is not going to see \$1.58 cents on those bags, the City will see something less than that, I don't know what that figure will be, it has not been brought up. But I think our taxes should not be going up an equal amount, but if we are paying a \$1.60 and the manufacturer of the bags, the wholesaler of the bags is going to be making profit, our taxes should not be going up the whole \$135 as proposed on the average. Another item that brings to mind that concerns me an awful lot as a landlord, I do own some property here in Manchester. And Mr. Thomas said that the City is going to be working with us when the tenants don't use it properly. Who is going to have to clean it up? If the tenants decide to put the garbage in the basement and the landlord doesn't see it for a month because he hasn't had to go into the basement, who is going to have to go down there and clean it up, it is not going to be the City officials, I can guarantee that. I think you have got to look at this and see how you are going to use it. I own a building on Second Street in Manchester, I have a dumpster out there, my taxes on that building, a 6,000 square foot office building, the taxes are \$16,000 a year. When you stop and think of that it makes you sick and it makes you wonder why you want to live in Manchester. I think it is time that we look at cutting the budget and stopping this foolishness of spending, spending, spending.

My name is Pete Salin I live at 4381 Brown Avenue. I am 100% opposed to this bag & tag program. It is not very nice, and something that was not mentioned is the elderly. They have a hard time now, to impose this on them is way out of line. You want the people to participate, Alderman Domaingue, but they should not be charged for the bags, they should be given the bags for free. These people who are going to make the bags are going to be making a profit, then they should be given to the property owners. I for one will not participate in it. Thank you.

My name is Rick Blais, and I represent the New Hampshire Property Owners Association. I am President of the Manchester chapter. We are here

tonight in opposition of this bag & tax as it stands. Our members represent somewhere around three thousand units in the City, and based on your numbers that we are using, if we take the average of a six unit building and divide in the three thousand, that is about five hundred buildings. According to your numbers, my members are going to have to pay an extra \$62,000 in taxes this year. Based on your bag & tax fees, the average user based on three thousand units, the average taxes for your bag & tax would be \$405,000. And being a realistic person, that real number would be about \$600,000. We are talking about recycling, utopia is not here in Manchester. People are not going to comply with this. I agree with Bob Martel, the landlord is going to be responsible for hauling trash away. Your Health Department will be citing us. I talked to Fred this afternoon about it. His job will increase because there is going to be trash and litter on the property and the Housing Codes is going to get calls, and there is going to be a day or two to react to this situation then citations will start to fly. My members are going to be forced to pay those fines. Also a lot of the theory we are talking about here doesn't really work. Drive through the inner City, drive down the back alleys, how many trash bags does your family personally use per week. I am sure it is more than 1.7. Even if you get into the recycling mode, if you have a couple of kids at home, you are going to accumulate a lot of trash. The low income tenants they can't afford a bag, you are talking about a couple of hundred dollars a year added to their household budget. What are you going to tell them, go to work for one week so they can pay for their trash bags? It's not going to happen. And again, who is going to get stuck with the burden? The property owners. Basically we would like to see this rolled into our tax bill and spread across the board to everybody. Let it become a City issue, we are already paying for trash pickup, we have been paying right along, and now you want to say there is going to be an additional fee. All you are telling me is you are now going to take it out of my left pocket instead of my right pocket. A tax is a tax is a tax as it was said earlier, and our property owners are definitely opposed to it. If you wanted to call us to the table and really get our opinions, which, we talked of this a little over a year ago, we were never invited to speak to your group. We represent three thousand units in the City alone, and the membership is growing all the time, we would be glad to help you out with this. Thank you.

My name is Bill Stergios, (P.O. Box 217, Candia, NH) and I am a landlord in Manchester, although I live in Candia, New Hampshire. I think that one

fact is becoming painfully evident, and that is the Manchester landfill is closing in July. So now we are going to have to pay more in our trash fees for tipping services, which is the weight of the trash, and that's just the way it is, so this is an added expense, not something we are just raising the taxes on, but an added expense to the budget. Candia has recycled for many years and it has become a big success. To not recycle is both irresponsible and short-sighted. The only way I can see people recycling here in Manchester is to make it expensive for them not to recycle. I think the bag & tag program will do that. Each person on this earth should, and will have to be responsible for their own trash. I applaud Mayor Wieczorek and Mr. Thomas for coming up with a plan that it appears may work well. Those are the positives that I see in this program. The negatives I see as a landlord, my main concern is that I will be made an easy scapegoat for my tenants irresponsibility. I talked to Mr. Thomas today and I was assured that this will not be the case. I request from Mayor Wieczorek and the Aldermen that landlords be consulted and given input into the ordinances before they are implemented to ensure that this is not the case. I also would like to see the tipping fees reduced for people who have to bring trash that is blowing around on their property. I also hope that education is an important part of this program as I found the education program severely lacking in the initial recycling effort a few months ago. All they did was come around to my buildings, throw these plastic trash bins at the front door and drive away. I had to put them away because my tenants were not using them and I was afraid someone was going to trip on them and sue me. I hope the waste pickup, if it is taken over by a private company, there should be a substantial savings by reducing the work force of the Manchester Highway Department. My question is will this savings be taken into account and used to reduce our present tax rate, and if so this should help the elderly, who are on fixed incomes and compensate them for the added expense of the bag & tag program. The budget must be cut further and I question why some city employees were given raises recently. If we are trying to cut the budget, this is not the way to be doing it. I also find in my experience that it is my younger tenants that participate in voluntary recycling programs and the older people who are fighting this because this is the way they have always done things and they don't want to change now. I would encourage our older citizens to participate and help our environment for our grandchildren who will have to take care of our earth long after we are gone. Thank you.

My name is Raymond Houle, 200 Park View Street, Manchester, I am a property owner and I am opposed to the Bag & Tag and Tax because it is a tax, a tax and a tax. I feel that the less administrative costs there are by having one property tax the better off we are as a City. In 1977 Manchester closed the incinerator and at that time I had mentioned that there were plants that could have been utilizing the incinerator site by having scrubbers on top of the smoke stack and used the existing facility of burning the trash locally close to downtown Manchester on Valley Street to save costs. It was ignored. I went around the country and visited some of these clean plants that burn trash and take care of recycling. They have a big belt that magnetically pulls all the metal out of the trash, they have air blowers that blow the light plastics and other things out of the trash as it goes along. They then burn the balance of it and with water processing they remove chemicals from the burnt trash that then is use for fertilizers, recouping a significant amount of money from the process and only having to have one truck pickup plastic garbage cans along the street, not three trucks, one for recycling material, one for the normal household trash, and one for the garden waste. So there is savings by having one truck going around, not three. The sheets that I have passed out of the Ogden Martins system is a specific plant that I visited in several parts of Florida and other parts of the country, and their air stack, or chimney smoke stack have a scrubber process on it so the smoke that comes out after the burning is completely air safe and meets all of the clean air act requirements so it does not pollute the area. They have a large enough capacity so that they can burn the trash as it is received so there is no smell and no problems with the citizens near the plant. The entire process is very quiet, the only noise is the truck emptying out. I feel that Manchester could do a lot to implement the innovations of some other cities. It is fine to say where we have cities in the country that have bag & tag but other cities have used alternatives and a clean plant in the City can save a lot of trucking and expenses. Thank you.

My name is Bob McKechnie of 603 South Main Street, Ward 10. I agree with people on the bag & tag issue that it is a tax. But not doing it is also a tax. Either way we are going to get taxed. The bag & tag, the way I see, is a way of continuing with the recycling program and getting people who are not doing it more into doing it now. Another concern I have is with the elderly folks. A fifteen gallon bag is smaller than a thirty gallon bag, but some of these older folks cannot really lift that kind of weight. We have to

look at something of that nature and possibly give them a senior citizens discount or even a handicap discount.

My name is Raymond Buckley. Thank you Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board. I appreciate the chance to speak before you. Obviously my heart goes out to all of you having sat in your seats for two years I understand the tough choices you have to make as Aldermen. That is what leadership is all about. Unfortunately we put this issue on the back burner for many years. Three years ago when I was sitting on the board I thought there was a necessity to deal with the whole landfill closure issue and I sponsored the legislation that provided that twenty percent of the landfill closure costs would be provided by the State saving Manchester approximately 4 million dollars in that process. I also supported as a member of the Board recycling. Unfortunately it did not go through then because of the political process that was going on. If we had had recycling in place four years ago, and if we had provided the educational process and the programs to get the community to support that program, we would not be looking at this sort of tax increase at this time. I also want to tell you that I am greatly disturbed that we are looking at these sort of property tax increases, the bag & tag tax, and we are still going forward with the tax that is going to be the Centerplex tax. Many of you may not be aware but today the New Hampshire House Committee on Commerce and Small Business Consumer Affairs voted on Senate Bill 175, Mayor Wieczorek's favorite piece of legislation. What they did is wiped out every single portion of that bill that gave protection to the property taxpayers of Manchester, essentially said whatever Manchester wants to pay for the Centerplex would go right on the backs of the taxpayer. I think that is a shame and I would urge you once again as I did at the last Board meeting to reconsider your positions. I told you from the beginning that the House and Senate were never going to give us the protection and the support that you all expected. It is not going to happen, we need your leadership on this important issue. The fact that even with this scaled down Centerplex project, right now the Mayor has over \$300,000 a year that he socks away for his Centerplex projects, we are talking about a possible raise of \$50 million dollars at this point. If we go through the big process it is a \$100 million dollar cost to the property taxpayers of this City. This is just the first step, you would see service fees for everything. What we need is leadership from you because we need to stop the Centerplex project and move forward to make this community the great community it was. Stop worry about paying off those wealthy contributors and wealthy businessmen

who have nothing to do with working people of the City of Manchester.  
Thank you.

Chairman Robert stated the City Clerk received a letter that was addressed to the Committee and I would ask the Clerk to read it at this time into the record.

Clerk Bergeron stated the Committee would like to acknowledge receipt of a letter received on April 8, in opposition to the Bag & Tag program from Blanche Grondin, 41 Poplar Street, Manchester, New Hampshire 03104. In the interest of time I will read the major issues she raised:

“I am against the bag & tag fee, our government is controlling our life too much. What guarantee do we have that we are paying only \$1.60 per bag. Next year it will be \$2.00 a bag. When you passed the yard waste you told us we are only going to pay about .40 to .45 cents a bag, I pay .60 a bag. Also how about our sewer fees, it keeps going up every year. It will be the same with the bag & tag trash. I believe it will be another extra tax for the citizens of Manchester. Now you are thinking of patrolling our trash, that is really stupid. You are going to hire two enforcement workers and you are asking us to pay for them. Whose going to have this job, friends of the Mayor or friends of the Aldermen? This is a very bad idea, what about the citizens who are on welfare and seniors who are on fixed incomes, you do not care about them. I do not believe that the bag & tag fees will pay the entire cost of solid waste. Somehow you are going to need some more money to run the programs and you are going to raise it just like the sewer fee. It is just another form of tax for our citizens and is not a great idea.”

My name is Harriet Bingel and I live at 154 Head Street, Ward 10. I do not want the bag & tag either, but I respect the fact that the Mayor and Aldermen don't usually do what I want. I have a few questions. I would like to know if the bag & tag plan amount includes the extra \$1,100.00 a month the City of Manchester will be required to pay according to the waste management contract, page 7, I would also like to know if these wonderful bags that you have are made from post-consumer recycled plastic. Maybe we can meet people half way on a fixed income. It shows that the average person uses 1.7 bags, maybe we could give them one barrel a week free and any extra solid waste trash would be taxed through the bags. Maybe stickers could be provided instead of generating more plastic which cannot be recycled once it

is placed into a landfill. You say that using this bag & tag system will encourage people to recycle, well, so will mandatory recycling. Thank you.

My name is Peter Golabiewski and I live at 230 Hoyt Street, Ward 8. You are telling me I am going to pay \$1.60 per bag to do this. Yet you are going to find a way for the inner city people to get them for free? And I am going to pay for them? I just gave you an 8.5 percent raise last year and another 8.5 percent raise this year. That is a 17 percent raise I gave you. I am a taxpayer and you come up with this idea? He's asking me to get involved in this, and I called them up last year to get involved with a situation in my neighborhood which is creating a stump dump and he is telling me he is sick of me calling him? This is the technology school, they have a building over there, they are building on Stanton Street. For the last three years they have been dumping their stumps over there abutting wetlands, and they are telling me to mind my own business, and he's coming up with ideas like this? It's going to cost me, but yet they can dump illegal stumps over there and they just keep piling them and piling them? I came before this Board last year and expressed my opinion on this and nothing has been done. The stumps are still there and you are talking about bringing animals in? Rotting stuff abutting wetlands and it is okay? The Mayor, you got a letter and you told me you were going to keep in touch with the Building Commissioner? Mr. Girard, you went down there and you said the project looks fine, it was outstanding. Thank you.

I am Dennis Smestad and I live at 144 Donohue Drive. This is another fine mess you got us into. After almost twenty years we have known this was going to close. You should have taken action so we would not have to be farming this problem out to other communities. The second problem I have is what in the world do we need these bags for? We already have a city of about 100,000 people, we must now have in our hands the barrels that we put this stuff into. Why do we need a bag? Why can't we have a little tag if you are going to go the tag route. And let the trash people tear the tag off. Use the barrels we have now, don't put more trash into the barrel. The third thing, is this a temporary move that we are making, is there some solution where we don't have to go this bag route? Are we going to take care of our own problem here in house, are you now going to plan to be able to resolve this with an incinerator or something like that? Thank you.

My name is Steve Dolman and I live at 411 Hevey Street in Ward 11. To me, I am against the bag & tag because a bag & tag is a fee. A fee is just a tax, which comes out of the same place, my wallet. There is a benefit to a tax, at least on the property tax you can take it off your income tax, you cannot take a fee off your income tax. The second thing I am concerned about is that you have a lot of multi family houses, a lot of dumping going on now, this is just going to make a bigger problem with dumping. I am very concerned with people dumping garbage in the back streets. My third proposition is the Mayor keeps telling us to prioritize, prioritize your ideas, well I think I agree with former Alderman Buckley, I think we should prioritize and I don't think Centerplex should be our priority. I think we need to take care of the quality of life for the Manchester citizens, they deserve services. The only thing that should be bagged and tagged is this idea. Thank you.

My name is Rita Espinoza and I live at 451 Campbell Street. This is a problem, I understand, and I am not comfortable with it. I back the last gentleman who spoke. Sooner or later you are going to have trash everywhere. That will bring a lot of diseases, animals, rats, and everything else you can claim will be in those things. On top of that, I know the City needs money, if I remember correctly, twenty or thirty years ago, we used to have what we called a residents tax, then you took that off. Why don't you bring it back? At the time it was ten dollars for each person over twenty-one. Well bring it down to eighteen, if they are good enough to go to war they are good enough to pay that tax. Bring it up to twenty, eliminate all this, you still will probably have what you want. Thank you.

My name is Mario Leclerc and I live at 87 Coldwell Street. I have some items for reflection and some comments. Mr. Thomas in his presentation pointed out that he is going to need two pickup trucks for this enforcement along with two employees. Does the City currently recycle used police vehicles and other departments? And if that is the case that is a prime opportunity to take advantage of that. Another comment with that is what hours are these people going to work? If they are concerned with enforcing an ordinance? People are not going to be dumping at twelve thirty in the afternoon, they are going to be dumping at twelve thirty at night, so that should be looked at. I don't remember the exact year, but the voters of Manchester overwhelmingly voted for a referendum for recycling. Nothing happened with that. Manchester Recycling Corporation had pilot studies for

recycling. Nothing happened with that. Here we are again as Mr. Vachon said at the thirteenth hour. Nothing is going to happen. At last year's meeting when this proposal was made it was overwhelmingly opposed. I feel the same sentiment is here tonight. If you are going to carry this one step further with this user fee, someone should look into a user fee for the schools. Whoever uses the schools should pay for them and people who do not have children do not pay for them. Thank you.

My name is Gerry Vachon and I live at 221 Riverbank Road. A couple of items. One gentleman brought up the fact of putting up the plant back on Valley Street. I think that the dumbest thing we ever did was to close the incinerator. I understand it was because it was too costly to start it back up again. I happened to have called last winter to find out what last year's oil bill was for the Highway Department and it was a little over \$34,000. It cost back in 1977 to close it, 1.2 million dollars to put the oil burners in. At \$50,000 a year we could have been paying for scrubbers, I think that was the cost back then to run them. I don't understand, unless you show the people of Manchester that it really is not feasible to open that plant again and get this thing going without losing the services for the people of Manchester. How can we stand before you and say "we want this" and you are going to stand before us and say "this is good for you" when we don't even see the real numbers. Too costly is too costly in what, if I pay \$35,000 a year at the present rate of oil, I can at least say in ten years I can spend 3 million dollars and convert it and save that money just on oil alone is going to pay for the system. Then everything else, all the revenue we would generate, and we would do it as a City on our own like we have always done. We don't have to look elsewhere we know how to solve our problems. We can talk it out and try to find the best solution. Privatization, there is one thing that scares me about all of you deciding to go with privatization. What if the company you contract goes belly up, what happens to our trash, and then we are at the mercy of higher rates at any given point. Thank you.

My name is Bob Martel and I live at 95 Linda Lane. I just have another point that I would like to bring up. We are looking at this bag and tax for the garbage. It is another tax on the property owners of Manchester. If you look at the fact that this is going to cost the property owner \$135.00 a year. Let's use a number of twelve dollars a month. If you look at the cost of a mortgage today, you are talking somewhere between seven and eight dollars per thousand on a mortgage. You are affecting the affordability of the home

buyers out there today. And by affecting that affordability that home buyer can afford \$1,500 less in a mortgage. Where is that going to come from? It is going to come from the property owner who is going to get \$1,500 less for their house. So you are really devaluating the real estate by increasing taxes all the time. Give that some consideration.

My name is Mark Simpson and I live at 254 Cedar Street. I want to make a couple of quick points. When you say that you can enforce people not doing their trash correctly, well if you go out around where I live, right now, you can see with free trash removal that the tenants have, they are not doing it. How are you going to do it after you start charging them money? Basically that is it except if you are looking for money, you might try talking to Mr. Stabile also.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Clancy, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee