CITY OF STOUGHTON
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
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BRETT HEBERT
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Date: 9-11-19

To: Public Works Committee

From: Brett Hebert, Director of Public Works

Subject: Brush Collection

Dear Alders,

As you know, we offer a great curbside brush collection service to our residents. Currently, residents can practically put out any volume of brush that they so choose. With our current operation, we can handle some pretty large piles efficiently and effectively. However, the volume of these larger piles has started to become more and more frequent. The intent of the brush collection program is to not take whole trees, rather it is to collect the brush from trees that have been trimmed or branches that have been shed from the tree.

The current policy/procedure approved in 2006 (see attached) restricts the size of brush to no more than 4" in diameter and 8' in length. We feel that we can collect limbs that are slightly larger in diameter due to the current collection method, but we are cognoscente that allowing a diameter that is too large would only encourage residents to put out whole trees including the trunk. Our size recommendation is as follow:

- Branch Diameter – No greater than 6 inches
- Branch Length – No greater than 8 feet
- Pile Size – The pile must fit within the terrace area (back of curb to either the sidewalk or property line if there is no sidewalk) and shall not be greater than 20 feet in length.
- Branches shall be stacked neatly parallel to the roadway.
- Any trees/brush that have been cut by a paid contractor will not be collected.

Of course, anytime there are restrictions, the question of how do we enforce these restrictions is a consideration. We fight the battle of wanting to provide a great service to the community and collecting the larger volume of brush but also how can we collect the brush in a timely manner with the time scheduled. We schedule a week for collection, and barring an unforeseen storm event, are right up against that five-day window.

We would also like the committee to consider eliminating the January brush collection. We have found that this collection is not used by the majority of our residents. We also run into the issue of winter storms covering up the brush that is set out make it difficult for our staff to collect and sometime not easy to see.

We look forward to discussing this with you at the Public Works Meeting on September 19th.

Respectfully,

Brett Hebert
Director of Public Works

BRUSH COLLECTION PROCEDURE

Approved by the Council: October 24, 2006

Pickup of properly sized brush (maximum diameter 4”, maximum length 8’) begins on the first Monday of the month for that week, starting in April through the first week of October. Plan your trimming around the scheduled pickup to eliminate having brush out for long periods. Please have your brush at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on the aforementioned Mondays. Please place butt (the cut) ends facing the curb. Rootballs will not be picked up and should be disposed of at the Madison Compost Site (call 267-1502 for information). All brush must be placed in the parkrow, not in the street (violators will be fined). Once crews have gone through an area no other pickup will be done until the following scheduled pickup. Please be patient as it will take crews a while to get to all the brush depending upon how much is out. Street Department will not collect brush or limbs cut by private contractors. Private contractors need to haul away all brush and limbs. If you have any questions please call the Street Department office at 873-6303.