



NEWS CONFERENCE

Mayor kicks-off first set of 17 neighborhood clean-up campaigns

“Directed Special Pickups” aim to remove over 1.5 million pounds of garbage from selected neighborhoods this summer.

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TIME: Monday, June 10, 2002 11:00 AM

LOCATION: 515 N. 33rd St. (At the rear alley of this address)

Milwaukee, WI — City of Milwaukee officials are working with neighborhood groups (Merrill Park Community Organization) in a program called “Directed Special Pickups.” It has been having a positive impact on Milwaukee neighborhoods. Neighborhood groups select special areas for intensive City cleanup services. This year each of the 17 aldermanic districts have the option of selecting a 30 block area to remove large garbage items, junk cars and items typically not collected in the regular garbage cart system. The successful system is a cooperative arrangement between neighborhoods, Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS).

The way it works is selected neighborhood groups go door to door with a flyer notifying residents about potential litter problems and how to move the garbage out. Residents simply place the items next to their regular garbage collection point on a Friday and DPW will come through on the next Monday to remove it all. Any remaining garbage nuisances are followed up with orders and enforcement action from the Department of Neighborhood Services. The program has proved to be a speedy and efficient way to help neighborhoods stay clean. The contact by the community groups has benefited the City with a higher compliance rate than traditional enforcement efforts. Neighborhood Groups are excited about the program since it helps to assert neighborhood standards for cleanliness and maintenance.

Last year the City removed 789 tons of garbage from 17 Special Pickups. Among the items collected are 1,333 tires. DNS has written orders to remove 126 vehicles. Of those, owners have removed 61 and the City towed 65. DNS has issued 97 follow-up cleanup orders for any remaining problems. The Department of Public Works utilizes a special skid loader to grapple large items which in the past could result in back injuries to workers. The new program has proven to be a win-win for all involved.

Officials and neighborhood residents who have used the program will be on hand to talk about how the program changed their neighborhood. They will talk about the remaining cleanups and what people should do to prepare for it. Others neighbors will be actively moving out items for collection.

For further information contact Todd Weiler 286-3214