



Office of City Clerk
City Council Document Tracking Sheet

City Hall
121 North LaSalle Street
Room 107
Chicago, IL 60602
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Matter ID: R2023-0005170

Meeting Date: 10/11/2023

Sponsor(s): Moore (17) *

Type: Resolution

Title: Call for hearing(s) with President of Lakeshore Recycling Systems on waste diversion rates and possible avenues for improvement

Committee Assignment: Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy

The Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the *Chicago Tribune* published an article on September 15 of 2023, reporting that only 9.6% of the City of Chicago's waste was recycled in 2022, a stark contrast from several West Coast cities who have reported recycling rates over 70%, with San Francisco leading with more than 80% recycled since 2008. Even New York City recycled about 20% in 2020, according to the *New York Times*; and

WHEREAS, although waste reduction and improving recycling participation are imperative to achieving environmental justice, the City of Chicago has shown little to no improvement in these activities for the past 10 years; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the City of Chicago introduced the Blue Cart Recycling Program across six service regions in Chicago, the City's largest effort for residential recycling; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2021, the City of Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation (DSS) partnered with Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) to collect residential Blue Cart recyclables from four of the six service areas in the City of Chicago (Contract No. 151329). This \$80 million, three-year contract was intended to improve the abysmal recycling participation in the City of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, LRS' contract was Nine Million Dollars (\$9,000,000) lower than the second lowest bidder, raising significant concerns about whether LRS underestimated its bid; and

WHEREAS, a key provision of the aforementioned contract prohibits disposal of recyclable materials in a landfill. Nevertheless, much of the material placed in Blue Carts is either brought to landfills or left behind in residential Blue Carts due to LRS' determination that the material is contaminated; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Blue Cart material being left behind by LRS, Chicago residents are faced with overflowing Blue Carts and debris in alleyways and on curbsides. To avoid accumulating trash and debris, Chicago residents are then forced to place any Blue Cart material that has been left behind into trash cans, certain to be brought to a landfill; and

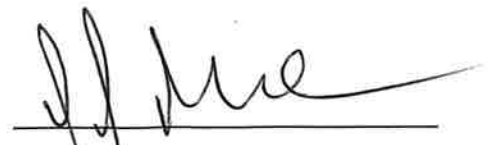
WHEREAS, upon information and belief, LRS' transfer facility located in the New City community, lacks the capacity to perform the recycling services required by the Contract; and

WHEREAS, while the City dollars used to award the LRS Contract were intended to improve recycling participation, the abysmal rates remain stagnant; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2023, LRS's contract with the City was modified, increasing the price for recycling collection services by 3% (Modification No. 532749); and

WHEREAS, LRS recently modified its \$80 million contract with DSS, but has yet to put forth any plan whatsoever that documents how the aforementioned problems will be addressed and rectified:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President of Lakeshore Recycling Systems be called to appear in front of the Chicago City Council to testify as to the abysmal waste diversion rates and possible avenues for improvement.



David Moore
Alderman, 17th Ward