



Shingle Creek
Neighborhood Association
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David Herberholz, Director
Division of Solid Waste and Recycling
309 Second Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55401-2281
612-673-2917

Re: MRI contract

Dear Mr. Herberholz,

The Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association, a 501c 3 neighborhood organization, appreciates the opportunity to share our comments on the important issue of the MRI contract. We received notice of the meeting on November 13, after the hearing was held but are adamant that our voices are heard about this issue and that a comment extension period may be allowed so others from the community may have the opportunity to give their input.

MRI's main office and two of the 13 member businesses are in our neighborhood. They provide stellar solid waste collection services for 55,000 dwellings, including those in the Shingle Creek neighborhood. They provide local living wage jobs in our neighborhood which are hard to come by in this community. And we appreciate the support of MRI for our community events and activities as a small neighborhood organization. Having a coalition of 13 haulers offers a level of service and a competitive advantage that would not exist otherwise.

When considering this important contract, we believe these five factors should be weighed heavily.

- 1) Having a coalition of 13 strong small businesses provides a level of service and a competitive opportunity that a city this size requires to maintain the city without massive and multiple interruptions which increase costs.
- 2) There are tremendous costs involved with creating new systems. The city is trying to save costs at every turn. What will be the upfront and hidden costs of creating any other new systems. Reliability of 13 multiple strong small businesses in the City of Minneapolis is more important than being beholden to one single large provider or dealing with the unknown but guaranteed increased costs of creating a whole new system..

- 3) Providing more living wage job opportunities in the City of Minneapolis is more important than feeding into a huge single company that has already proven to be troublesome for the City and could ultimately leave the city more vulnerable and at a huge risk of a strike and piling garbage consequences afterward. MRI provides its main office, and two of its 13 member businesses in our neighborhood. These are valuable jobs to our community that we don't want to lose.
- 4) Local companies tend to employ locally and "one very large company" likely employs people from outside the community.
- 5) Having strong small businesses provide more local benefits for many more schools, youth programs, nonprofit events and programs across this city than one single company could. So multiple strong small businesses spread more benefits locally.

We believe these five items are in line with the City of Minneapolis The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth Adopted 2011 Economic Development policies:

Policy 4.1: Support private sector growth to maintain a healthy, diverse economy.

Policy 4.2: Promote business start-ups, retention and expansion to bolster the existing economic base.

Policy 4.7: Focus resources and efforts on connecting residents to good jobs.

Policy 4.8: Continue to pursue the removal of barriers that prevent residents from holding living wage jobs and achieving economic self sufficiency.

SCNA appreciates this opportunity to submit these comments for consideration. This is truly one case where less is not more.

Sincerely on behalf of Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association,

Amy Luesebrink
SCNA staff
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