

*On April 21, 2022, Commissioner Busch sent an email to those who had contacted the Borough about the discontinuation of trash and recycling drop-off at the Public Works Yard on Sunset Blvd. This was after a discussion of the budget-related issues at the April 14, 2022 Budget Public Hearing. The email text was as follows:*

The closure of the Public Works Yard for trash and recycling collection was a departmental decision. I did not make the decision lightly, which I based on a careful and thorough review of the costs and benefits as well as possible alternatives. The monetary cost of opening the yard for trash and recycling was not the only factor in my decision. I recognize that many people have found it convenient to dispose of their trash and recycling at the yard. I also recognize that all of us are operating under a very strict ordinance about how, when, and where trash cans may be put out, returned and stored.

Over the years, the collection of trash and recycling at the yard has expanded greatly to the point that it interferes with overall operations of the Public Works Department. It has placed an undue burden on the Public Works Supervisor who has had to fill in on his days off when the seasonal staff person was unable to work. In addition, the Public Works Supervisor had to be called on numerous occasions to come and deal with property owners who refused to accept that only household trash could be brought there and instead insisted on bringing bulk items, building materials, paint, and hazardous materials for disposal. If the staff member had to take a short break, he would often return to find these unacceptable items left in his absence. Public Works staff frequently had to clean up trash being dumped over the gate when the yard was closed.

The Public Works Yard was not designed for and was never intended for trash and recycling collection. It was designed to provide storage for seasonal and emergency management equipment, and to ensure the security of the water utility building as required by the State. The collection of trash and recycling at the yard is greatly detrimental to neighboring properties because it is impossible to screen them from the noise, smell, and unsightly conditions. It is not an appropriate location for trash and recycling collection, especially since it was added after the adjacent homes were built.

Over the years, most part-time residents have found other means to deal with the inconvenience of not being here to take in their cans on Mondays. The bulk of the trash and recycling brought to the yard is from rental properties. It is not the Borough's responsibility to subsidize vacation rentals. Landlords who do not want to require their tenants to handle trash cans have the option to hire a property management company as a business expense. As an alternative, the County Transfer Station is open Monday through Saturday. The transfer station accepts trash and recycling from county residents and property owners.

I appreciate the many ideas put forth. I am also grateful for the offer of monetary support to continue the service. If funds are available from private groups then perhaps they are best deployed to subsidize the cost of services by a private business that ensures absent property owners adherence to the Borough's ordinance about trash cans.

In consideration of the reasons iterated here and other factors which are confidential municipal business, my decision is unchanged.

**Catherine Busch, Commissioner  
Public Works, Parks and Public Property  
Borough of Cape May Point**