

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

Kudos to Bonnie Lowenthal for bringing this issue forward. We have already tolerated the problem of shopping carts trashing our beautiful City for far too long. They have had over eleven years to solve the problem.

Numerous times I have posed this question to local store managers—If I were to walk outside with \$20 worth of groceries without paying for them, Would you stop me? Would you prosecute me for shoplifting? Invariably, the answer is a resounding, “YES, of course!”

Yet, when I ask why they allow someone to walk off with a \$200-300 shopping cart, they give me every excuse in the book for allowing this crime:

“We don’t want to create bad relations with customers”—these stores do seriously offend law-abiding citizens who want to live in neighborhoods that are free of blight.

“We have a cart retrieval program”—It isn’t working!

The stores say it is too costly to contain the carts while the rest of us bear the cost in lower property values, time spent constantly calling a retrieval service that isn’t effective, and City expenses incurred dealing with the problem.

There is no excuse for anyone to commit a crime against not only the store, but against the rest of the City. Plain and simple—these people are stealing and the stores are enabling them.

These abandoned shopping carts create blight in our fair City, they are a curse to our neighborhoods, and they are a personal affront to residents who do care about and honor the property of others. Reliable sources report that the City picked up more than 13,000 carts in six months—why are we taking responsibility for tasks that these businesses should be doing themselves?

Additionally, these carts end up in filthy unsanitary situations where they are magnets for E.coli, Staph bacteria, Rota virus, Foot and Mouth Disease and even hepatitis. Think about that on your next trip to the grocery store. You may be bringing home something more than your groceries.

Businesses and grocery markets that furnish shopping carts must be held responsible for the blight they bring to our neighborhoods. These carts must be contained within the parameters of their property. Otherwise substantial fines should be levied against these businesses for littering our beautiful City.

2-06

DIANA LEJINS, Neighborhood Watch Captain



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LAUNDRY?





WHERE WILL YOUR FOOD GO ?