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# Palms Neighborhood Council

## Dog Waste stations

Proposal

### Why Dog Stations?

#### **i** DOG WASTE IS HARMFUL

Dog waste is a major pollutant and contaminant of the water supply. It is a serious health issue. In fact, it is estimated that 1/3 of all water contamination is a result of dog waste run off entering streams and leaching into underground well water. The average dog can produce 274 pounds of waste each year. Disease from dog waste can spread to other dogs, children and adults.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) deemed dog waste a "non-point source of pollution" in 1991, which puts dog waste in the same category as oil and toxic chemicals. A single gram of dog waste can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria, which are known to cause cramps, diarrhea, intestinal illness, and serious kidney disorders in humans. The EPA estimates that two or three days' worth of waste from just 100 dogs would contribute enough bacteria to temporarily close a bay, and all watershed areas within 20 miles of it, to swimming and shell fishing.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), dog waste can contribute to diseases that animals pass to humans, called zoonoses.

When infected waste is deposited on the ground, the eggs of certain roundworms and other parasites can linger in the soil for years. Anyone, especially dogs, who come into contact with that soil, be it through gardening, playing sports, walking barefoot or any other means, runs the risk of coming into contact with the eggs.

Some of the hard-to-pronounce parasites that waste could harbor include Cryptosporidium, Giardia, Salmonella, as well as hookworms, ringworms and tapeworms. Infections from these bugs often cause fever, muscle aches, headache, vomiting, and diarrhea in humans. Children are most susceptible, since they often play on the ground and put objects and fingers in their mouth or eyes.

<https://zerowasteusa.com/advice.asp>

### ***The Solution***

**i** By providing a highly visible dog waste station system, the PNC can create a prominent awareness of each dog owner's responsibility and produce greater compliance.

In addition, proactive installation of dog waste systems has other benefits:

1) A higher level of compliance: Dog owners are more likely to clean up after their dogs if they are provided with dog waste bags and waste containers. Owners will feel more responsible if a pet waste station system is provided and they realize someone is 'monitoring'. It becomes socially unacceptable for a dog owner to allow their dog to soil the grounds when a convenient pick-up bag and trash container is provided. Dog owners feel a sense of connection with the Property's management when progressive steps are taken to solve the dog waste problem.

2) Contained Waste: Pet Waste is contained to one specialized location when dog waste stations are provided. This is a better solution than pet owners using their own bags and dropping waste into other trash cans, down storm drains, dumpsters, or taking it back to their residences and flushing bags down toilets or co-mingling with other household trash. The best solution to solve the problem of dog waste is to provide Dog Waste Stations.

3) Happier Dog Owners: By providing specialized dog waste bags and dog waste stations, dog owners appreciate the level of attention and concern that the Property's Management has for the dog owning residents, enhancing the value of their ownership and justification of rental rates, management fees, dog license fees and/or taxes.

4) Happier Non-Dog Owners: As pleased as dog owners will be, so will non-owners. "Dog-less" residents will greatly appreciate the cleaner environment.

5) Health Reasons: Dog waste contains bacteria and disease. Almost 33% of all pollutants in waterways are attributed to dog waste pollutants originating from rainwater run-off via sewer systems, and dogs soiling near watersheds or beaches. Dog waste is the third highest contributor to bacteria in contaminated waters. Dog waste can spread bacteria and disease to children, adults and other dogs.

6) Economics: It is far less expensive to provide dog waste bags and dog waste containers than it is to clean up soiled areas, handle resident complaints regarding soiled grounds and deal with local, state or federal violations.

\*For Property Managers, one unhappy tenant who doesn't renew their leases, equals a unit not rented. That could cost the property, in lost rent, more than the entire cost of supplying that property with waste bags for a year. It might even cost a management company a contract renewal for the whole property. It makes sense to make residents and tenants happy.

\*For Municipalities, City and State Managers, eliminating resident complaints and reducing environmental pollution improves overall Management approval and continued support from the electorate.

<https://zerowasteusa.com/advice.asp>

## Our Proposal

### **i** INSTALLATION OF STATIONS AND DISPENSERS

Installation of dog waste stations or dispensers is very easy. The first one takes 30 minutes, then the subsequent units will install in 20 minutes or less.

There are 3 options for a dog waste station installation:

1) Property Maintenance Personnel: Installation by your regular maintenance crew.

2) Dog Waste Removal Services: There are local dog waste removal services that will install and maintain dog waste stations, empty bins, and re-stock the waste dispenser bags weekly.

3) PNC committee members.

## **SERVICING STATIONS & DISPENSERS**

1) Property Maintenance: On a weekly basis property or park maintenance personnel replace filled can liners and refill the waste bag dispensers.

2) Outside Services: There local dog waste removal services that will change waste container bags weekly and restock the dog waste dispenser bags.

3) PNC committee members.

## **TYPES OF DOG WASTE STATIONS**

The best dog waste stations and dispensers are made of Aluminum and not poly plastic resin. Aluminum stations last longer and withstand daily use better than poly resin or plastic units. Poly resin stations tend to fade, crack and suffer more damage, intentional or unintentional, than sturdy aluminum units.

Vertical stations (post, dispenser, can) tend to provide a better value and more flexibility than one-piece, valet type units, because you can replace and change the various components if necessary. With a one-piece unit there are less options and flexibility.

Doggy Waste Stations with key-locking bag dispensers are preferred over non-locking dispensers and will result in less bag waste.

## **COMPLETE STATIONS vs. DISPENSERS**

If your location already has trash cans, you can install a dispenser and sign on a post next to the trash can for disposal of dog waste bags. However, most Professional Managers recommended installing a complete dog waste station (pole, sign, dispenser, can) to keep dog waste separate from the general trash.

## **LOCKING CAN vs. NON-LOCKING CAN**

If you have concerns about or past experience with vandalism, then a locking can is the preferred option. Locking cans, like The Gladiator<sup>®</sup>, provide a secure, lockable can that prevents mischief and restricts disposal to small items only. A non-locking can, like The Sentry<sup>®</sup> can, provides an equally effective, non-locking can solution.

## **TYPES OF DOG WASTE BAGS**

There are 3 types of bags on the market, Roll Bags, Flat Pack or "mitt-style" Bags, also called SINGLPul<sup>®</sup> bags, and Tie-Handle Bags.

Roll Bags: a continuous roll with a perforation between each bag enabling the user to pull out and tear off as many bags as they desire. The potential waste of using this type of bag is that users often pull out several bags when they only need one, and then end up throwing out (i.e.,wasting) extra bags along with the bag they actually used.

Flat Packed or SINGLPul<sup>®</sup> Bags: Are packed flat in a stack, with a built-in tab that is designed to dispense one bag at a time, eliminating the waste, and added expense, of

the roll bag system.

SINGLPul® Bags usually reduce bag usage versus Roll Bags as much as 70%. SINGLPul® (sometimes called "mitt-style") bags are the most economical, commercial grade bags available.

Tie-Handle Bags are green opaque bags, made so you can't see through. Come on a continuous roll with a perforation between each bag, and are 20% larger than traditional Roll Bags. The tie-handles make it easy to knot bag and dispose.

If you are starting a new program, it makes sense to use SINGLPul® dog waste bags. It would be cost effective to switch existing roll bag dispensers to SINGLPul® bag dispensers to realize the savings of SINGLPul® bags.

## **SIGNS**

Most dog waste stations and dispensers come with dog waste signs that identify and provide usage instructions. Make certain that these signs are kept clean and unobstructed. Signs should have both a picture symbol and text.

## **RESIDENT NOTIFICATION**

Once you have installed your Stations or Dispensers, it is **IMPORTANT** to inform the residents. An effective **NOTICE** should contain the following:

- 1) Where the Stations are located.
- 2) How to use the Stations and bags.
- 3) Regulations/Laws requiring their use.
- 4) Importance to all residents of making sure everyone complies.

Choose a Dog Waste supplier that offers preprinted notices or door hangers, or PDF versions you can download and print on your letterhead or in community newsletters.

## **LOCATION AND QUANTITY OF STATIONS**

Condo/Apartment/HOA:

It is recommend that you install **ONE** station **for every 50 condo/apartment** units, or if the units are in clusters of less than 50, that you place one station for each housing cluster. Monitor the usage and install additional stations if the cans are filling up or the dispensers are running out of bags more than once a week.

Parks:

For Parks, place one unit every 500 feet within the Park. You should then monitor the usage and install additional stations if the cans are filling up or the dispensers are running out of bags more than once a week.

A good "rule of thumb" is to provide one station for every 50 dogs that would pass by the station each day. For example, a park visited by 500 dogs a day would need 10 stations.

Cleaner Parks are utilized more often by residents resulting in a higher level of resident

satisfaction with their local government.

### Dog Parks:

Dog Parks, particularly on weekends, are busy places. In general, Dog Parks should have twice the number of stations than a normal 'Park' might have. There should be a dog waste station located immediately outside the Dog Park area as well as multiple stations inside the Dog Park. Bag usage on weekends can be up to 10 times the daily usage levels, so the person(s) managing the Dog Park need to provide for dispenser refilling and can emptying on a regular basis throughout the weekend. Choose dispensers that hold more bags, and cans that are larger and require less emptying to reduce service intervals.

### **SECURITY AND VANDALISM**

It is recommended that you use stations that have lockable waste containers and lockable bag dispensers to prevent unauthorized use, vandalism and theft.

There are only a few stations available that provide a locking container. One of the best locking containers is The Gladiator® .

### **SUPPLIERS**

Choose a supplier that specializes in dog waste stations or dog waste management solutions. From a service perspective, it is easier to select a supplier that sells direct to end users, as opposed to one that deals only through distributors. Dealing direct usually means faster service, more consistent service and better value and prices.

The PNC can greatly improve the quality of dog-friendly outdoor grounds and facilities by installing and maintaining Dog Waste Stations. Select an experienced supplier that understands your professional needs, your high level of service commitment to residents, and your balancing of cost controls and operational efficiency.

<https://zerowasteusa.com/advice.asp>



# Conclusion

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## PROPOSAL FOR APPROVAL (CURRENT MEETING)

Erick and I would like to purchase and install a dog station in the above area. We would like to brand it with the PNC and have residents go to the PNC website to provide feedback on the usefulness of the project. We think this will be a great way to collect data and get more individuals involved in cleaning up our neighborhood.



# NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL SUSTAINABILITY ALLIANCE®

***The Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA) advances sustainability and resilience across Los Angeles through advocacy, sharing of best practices, and community action.***

Neighborhood Councils deal with a variety of issues. Many of those issues that impact our communities are directly tied to sustainability: transportation, pollution, quality of life, public health, urban forestry, park equity, water quality, water supply, energy, and more.

In the fall of 2014 an array of Neighborhood Councils gathered together to form the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance. We invite all Neighborhood Councils to become a part of this coalition. We want to help all Neighborhood Councils pursue issues that are important to them, and we believe that we can have a stronger voice when we support each other.

## **WHAT IS THE NCSA DOING?**

- We are fostering the formation of sustainability-oriented NC committees
- We are providing a forum to discuss sustainability-related issues
- We are strengthening the voice of NCs to ensure high impact
- We are working with nonprofits and other organizations
- We are collaborating with the City of Los Angeles to implement the city's first Sustainability pLAN

## **HOW DO WE JOIN?**

1. Vote as a board to support the following statement:  
We the \_\_\_\_\_ (Neighborhood Council) formally agree to be a member of the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance. The Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance advances sustainability and resilience across Los Angeles through advocacy, sharing of best practices, and community action.
2. Appoint a representative or representatives to the alliance (each member NC will have a vote)
3. Email [ncsa@empowerla.org](mailto:ncsa@empowerla.org) to let us know that you have joined and who is representing you

Check out our bylaws: [ncsa.nationbuilder.com/bylaws](http://ncsa.nationbuilder.com/bylaws)

To learn more about our movement, visit our website: [ncsa.nationbuilder.com](http://ncsa.nationbuilder.com)  
and visit our [facebook page: facebook.com/neighborhoodcouncilsustainabilityalliance](https://www.facebook.com/neighborhoodcouncilsustainabilityalliance)

July 12, 2017    The NCSA is affiliated with Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

## **Green October**

A month-long campaign and set of activities promoting green/sustainable living in Palms

We will reach out to churches, businesses, and schools beforehand to get involved

### **Component #1: Campaign**

Themed weekly posts on social media platforms, physical posters for businesses and the Motor Avenue Farmer's Market that include:

1. A list of 7 tips for sustainable living (potentially with beginner, intermediate, and pro levels)
2. A few statistics about how these changes can positively impact the environment
3. A list of businesses who practice sustainable practices related to the theme
4. A prompt for a photo challenge that is connected to a random raffle each week
5. Incorporate into PNC Newsletter and on website front page if possible
6. Translated into Spanish and potentially Hindi

Owner: Irina

Partners: Justine and the Outreach Committee

Sous-chef:

Go to Culver City Farmer's Market to see if we can send info there

### **Component #2: Farmer's Market Demo Days**

Set up a booth at the Motor Avenue Farmer's Market with our list of sustainable practices, promoting our events, and showing a demo of how to be sustainable

1. Cooking local and vegetarian using farmer's market produce
2. Kids art project using recycled items
3. Have information about PNC on hand in case people want to get involved
4. Halloween costume challenge with green theme - humans and dogs

Owner: Jeremiah 21st

Shakuntala - Kids Art Project

Partners: Lee and the MAIA

Sous-chef: Eryn and Jeremiah

### **Component #3: Green Transportation Palms Walk**

Partner with Erika Graves and her Palms Walks as well as the Transportation Committee to create a sustainable transportation walk:

- Train attendees to use tap cards
- Explain why taking the train can help the environment
- Take the train somewhere during the walk
- Have information about PNC on hand in case people want to get involved

Owner:

Partners: Transportation Committee and Erika Graves

Sous-Chef:

### **Component #4: Clean up and Green up for "Make a Difference Day" (10/27)**

Similar to our previous clean up days, we will pick up trash along Motor Avenue as well as partner with MAIA to plant shrubs around trees

- Breakfast before (hopefully partially donated by a local business), pizza after (local)
- Encourage people to bring their own water bottles and coffee mugs (we will have large jugs of water and coffee)
- Have information about PNC on hand in case people want to get involved
- Staging area: Lawn outside of Palms Elementary?
- Set up sign up sheet for “adopting tree beds” so that the shrubs don’t die

Owner:

Partners: Lee and the MAIA,

Sous-Chef:

### **Component #5: Engage Businesses, Promote Palms Green Business Initiative**

Meet with restaurants and bars around Palms to discuss green practices, like “Ditch the Straw” and recognize businesses that choose to use sustainable practices

Owner:

Partners:

Sous-Chef: