

Lee Higdon, President
Charlestowne Neighborhood Association
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Charleston, SC 29402
charlestowneneighborhood@gmail.com

November 29, 2023

VIA US MAIL AND EMAIL

The Honorable John T. Tecklenburg
Mayor of the City of Charleston
PO Box 652
Charleston, SC 29402

RE: GARBAGE PROBLEM SOUTH OF BROAD

Dear Mayor Tecklenburg:

I am writing to you as the President of the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association (“CNA”) to set out CNA’s dismay at the garbage that is littering the streets of our neighborhood.

CNA’s members live south of Broad St. and confront, on a regular basis, trash strewn on our streets and overflowing public garbage cans spewing trash around them. Our neighborhood is a mecca for tourists visiting the city and those tourists apparently feel free to leave their garbage on our streets and to throw trash on top of overflowing garbage cans.

This problem has been persistent for too long. A solution must be designed, funded and staffed. The solution will need more people collecting the trash. We believe that the City understands the need to put more resources on this problem; however, in the past, the city has asserted that it has encountered issues hiring and keeping staff, within its pay scale and budget. These pay and budget limitations can be resolved if the city chooses, especially if the city taps into its revenues from tourism to fund the solution.

Our members bear an inordinate share of the burden of the city’s tourists, including trespassers, traffic, noise, crowds, and other ills that fall disproportionately on us. Litter and uncollected garbage also fall heavily on us and, unlike some of the other ills cited above, it is a problem that the city could and should fix, without needing to change the behavior of tourists. To put it simply, the City can, and must, hire the staff, and purchase the equipment, needed to ensure that it can collect the garbage left by its tourists.

We have voiced our concerns in this letter because the problem of litter and garbage in our neighborhood has risen to a level where it has become unacceptable. If the City doesn’t solve the problem, it risks not only alienating our members, but also losing its charm and reputation, which currently attract so many tourists.

Finally, I think you should know that I will cease to be president of the CNA at the end of 2023, and Jack Cleland will take over that role in 2024. Jack has worked with me on this letter; Jack and other CNA Board members fully support it. If you have any questions or concerns about this letter, Jack is prepared to take the lead on responding. His email address is clelandjh@gmail.com and his cell number is 607-725-1437.

If you think it might help, he could arrange a meeting on this topic between relevant City personnel and him and/or appropriate CNA board members.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee Higdon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lee Higdon
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Tel: 860-867-6881
lhigdon@conncoll.edu

cc (via email):

Thomas F. O'Brien, Director of Public Service
Matt Alltop, Deputy Director of Public Service, Environmental Services
Jason Kronsberg, Director of Parks
Mike Seekings, District 8 Councilmember, City of Charleston
William Cogswell, Mayor-Elect, City of Charleston