

Aug 6, 2023

Dear Mayor Mitchell, Mary Rapoza and City Council,

The controversy on the passing of the nip ban has brought to the forefront the litter problem of our city. A few of my neighbors and me are unofficial "Litter Marshalls" and regularly pick up trash on our daily walks. Our beautiful city has much to offer in tourism as well as recreational enjoyment. It would be great if all city departments and private citizens could work together to keep are city beautiful. I will keep this letter to one page but these are just a few suggestions to help solve this problem.

1. A city wide campaign spearheaded by the Mayor, City Council and private citizens and other environmental groups to work on the causes and possible solutions of litter (I know several people willing to serve, including myself). Representatives from each city ward, park department and Department of Public works should be included
2. Work with Sea Lab, Camp Kennedy to work with children to decorate seasonal trash cans encouraging and reminding people to not litter when getting city sponsored lunches, dinners. I have seen the free lunches handed out at parks and see them tossed on the ground. Before these are handed out, a reminder not to litter.
3. Thank businesses who keep their property clean with some sort of sticker to put on their door that "We are litter free, Please do the same" Perhaps a small plant as a thank you.
4. See if EACH ward councilor can get some volunteers of all ages to weekly clean up a hot spot such as a park or field that is city owned, it can vary week to week and just be for a limit of 2 hours or less.
5. Have all government entities such as libraries, city hall offices just remind people to keep our city clean. It could be a bookmark or sticker.

It may sound impossible to fix this litter problem but I believe with an organized campaign with schools, churches, businesses, city officials it can be done. The problem is so multifaceted but as they say "It takes a village". A litter task force with everyone involved can come up with a solution. These suggestions are just a start, as many people have other ideas that can be tried.

Sincerely,

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