



Bernard F. Lynch  
City Manager

*In cc packets  
5/21/09 by  
BML/ells*

TO: Mayor Edward Caulfield  
And  
Members of the Lowell City Council

FROM: Bernard F. Lynch, City Manager *ml*

DATE: May 20, 2009

SUBJECT: **MOTION OF 4/14/09 BY COUNCILOR ELLIOTT  
"REQUEST THE CITY MANAGER AND THE PUBLIC  
WORKS COMMISSIONER DEVELOP A PLAN TO ADDRESS  
ILLEGAL DUMPING ON FIRST STREET".**

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In regards to the above mentioned motion I have been in contact with Assistant City Manager & DPW Commissioner T.J. McCarthy. I have attached an updated report from TJ regarding this matter.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.



The City of Lowell  
Department of Public Works  
1365 Middlesex Street  
Lowell, MA. 01851

TJ McCarthy  
Asst. City Manager  
Public Works Commissioner  
t: 978-970-3301 f: 978-970-4071  
www.lowellma.gov

TO: Bernie Lynch, City Manager

FROM: TJ McCarthy, Asst. City Manager

DATE: May 19, 2009

RE: **Council Motion by Councillor R. Elliott on 4/14/09**  
**"Request the City Manager and the Public Works Commissioner develop a plan to address illegal dumping on First Street"**

In response to Councillor R. Elliott's motion regarding illegal dumping on First Street, I would like to update the Council on work that has taken place on several levels.

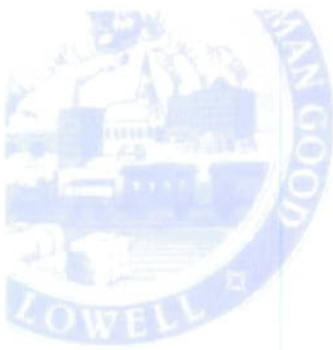
Due to several issues related to its steep topography, First Street has always presented conditions which have allowed illegal dumping to take place. In addition to the steep terrain which makes access problematic, most all of the land below the street to VFW/Rt-113 is owned by the State. Landslides have also presented issues in the past.

In order to properly address the issue of illegal dumping all of the issues will need to be addressed and be factored into the planning solutions.

#### Short Term Solutions

Last fall, in conjunction with MA DEP a portable camera was installed and captured a person illegally dumping on First Street. Currently the DPW has obtained two (2) cameras and is seeking funding for two (2) more. Periodically a camera will be placed near First Street dumping sites in attempts to capture such activities, which carry fines ranging from \$300 to \$5,500.

As noted earlier, the steep terrain poses difficult conditions to recovery items. There is no equipment owned by the City to perform recovery of debris readily available without closing VFW Highway and rolling items down hill. I have made inquiries into MA Highway seeking a meeting to review the components of this type of operation which will require the closure of a portion of the VFW Highway .



Another potential option to consider is to significantly increasing the number of street lights on First Street, specifically where incidents are occurring. I will work with the City Electrician to further investigate this option and request installation by National Grid.

### Long Term Solutions

In order to permanently reduce the opportunity of illegal dumping, I have met with several departments to solicit their ideas to develop long term solutions.

The cornerstone concept in the long term planning ideas was creating an "inhibitor" or condition which would make dumping less likely. The most prevalent idea would be to install both a guardrail and sidewalks along the entire length of First Street (VFW side) and to install and maintain better surface drainage on the hill side.

The sidewalks may stimulate more pedestrian activity, increase openness away from overgrowth and potentially present less desirable conditions to dump.

Currently small sections of guardrails exist inconsistently along First Street. Physical evidence of dumping along the street tends to indicate that they present a barrier, as most items are left in areas where guard rails do not exist.

The current control of normal ground water run off on the land side of First Street, and lack of more designed control measures is crating physical issues to the roadway and create conditions where overgrowth tends to cluster and close in the roadway. Further engineering studies is required. Last week the services of a FEMA Engineer were utilized to develop some options. At this time it appears that installing gravel filled French drains may be the most cost effective solution.

Below are preliminary cost estimates for options identified for long term consideration for the 4225 feet of road.

- 6' wide concrete sidewalks @ \$32.00-5yrd = \$91,000
- 6' wide bituminous sidewalk @ 30.00-5yrd = \$85,000
- R/R Curb @ 32.00-1ft = \$76,000
- Guard Rail @ 100.00-1ft = \$ 422,500



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Moving forward we will continue to seek a meeting with MA Highway to plan a clean-up of current debris, look into additional lighting and seek funding sources to achieve long term plans.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact me.