



City of Detroit  
CITY COUNCIL

**Brenda Jones**  
**Press Releases & Statements**

**Statement**  
**on**  
**the Waste Removal Fee Ordinance**

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On Friday, June 30, 2006, I voted against the \$300.00 annual fee for trash collection because the citizens of Detroit are already over taxed. With the outrageous amount we as Detroiters' pay in property taxes, automobile insurance, coupled with the tremendous unemployment rate and stagnant economy, the people of our city cannot afford to be burdened with more costs.

The members of our community have voiced their opposition loud and clear to City government regarding this fee. On two separate occasions we the Detroit City Council have held public hearings on this matter. The resounding conclusion is that the basic essential services of garbage collection, police and fire protection should be covered by the taxes we all currently pay.

We need to explore other means to handle these costs besides placing this additional financial burden on the backs of those who can least afford it. Although it is stated that the current 3 mils residents pay for trash collection and disposal will be eliminated from the tax bills, this is very deceiving.

The median value of a home in the City of Detroit is under \$60,000. While, a resident who owns a home valued at \$200,000 pays \$300.00 per year for solid waste services through their property taxes, the same as the proposed fee. At the same time, individuals with homes valued at less than \$200,000 pay less than \$300.00 per year through property taxes and those with homes valued greater than \$200,000 pay more than \$300.00.

Under the Mayor's proposal, any resident who has a home valued less than \$200,000 will receive an increase in the cost of trash service and those who have homes with greater

value than \$200,000 will receive a decrease in the amount they currently pay through their property taxes. This proposal obviously, places the greater burden on the poorer residents while giving the wealthier citizens a discount. This is not good public policy and I cannot condone such a measure aimed at residents who are already over taxed and in need of all the relief they can get.

I will continue to vote my conscience and fight for the citizens of Detroit who placed a great deal of faith in me by allowing me to serve as your voice on the Detroit City Council.