Council Direction:

On June 14, 2010, Public Works Committee heard a delegation from Mr. Pete Maring regarding concerns about garbage collection at 480 Upper Kenilworth, a five-plex, where he is a tenant. Public Works Committee received Mr. Maring’s presentation then referred it to staff for further investigation and report back to the Committee.

The purpose of this report is to report to Public Works Committee on staff’s investigation of Mr. Maring’s concerns to conclude this matter and remove the item from the Outstanding Business List.

Information:

Mr. Maring’s concerns were:

1.) Recyclables had set out, but had not been collected;
2.) Allegations that his landlord had paid a collection worker to back his truck up and collect materials down the driveway.

Mr. Maring also provided some photographs as part of his presentation.

Following the meeting, staff met with Mr. Maring to review his comments and the photographs he provided.

In the discussion with Mr. Maring, he indicated that he used a blue bag for recyclables and that he put a plastic bag with containers and loose paper material in the blue bag. Mr. Maring was advised that these mixed recyclables would not be collected. He asked why the collectors couldn’t separate it. Staff advised Mr. Maring that the City has a two-stream collection system for recyclables and containers and papers are to be set
out in separate containers. Mr. Maring suggested that it would only take the collector seconds to separate the material. Staff pointed out that this may be the case if only one resident mixed the recyclables, however, if 150,000 curbside households mixed recyclables, the time involved and related collection costs would increase. Although Mr. Maring was not entirely satisfied, staff is of the opinion Mr. Maring has the correct information to set out recyclables and his concerns have been appropriately addressed.

With regard to the allegations about a collector being paid by his landlord to pick up waste material in the driveway, staff followed up with National Waste Services Inc. (NWSI), the service provider for garbage, organics and recyclables in the area. NWSI advised that they found no evidence to support this allegation when investigating with their staff. The photographs of the driveway, supplied by Mr. Maring, bear no evidence of waste collection vehicles being in the driveway. Staff is of the opinion that any alleged wrong-doing is unfounded at this time.

In conclusion, the concerns of Mr. Maring have been adequately addressed and, therefore, this matter can be concluded and the item removed from the Outstanding Business List.