



Municipality of Penn Hills

102 Duff Road, Penn Hills, PA 15235

412-342-1086

www.pennhills.org



February 27, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REPUBLIC SERVICES TO BEGIN CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAM TO ADDRESS CONTAMINATION

Republic Services is informing municipal customers that due to increased pressure on recycling programs, stricter enforcement of curbside recycling rules are going to be implemented. Republic Services is notified Penn Hills Municipality by letter and a visit on February 27, 2019 that these changes will be occurring. Republic Services letter explains that “residents may have services delayed or not occur if unacceptable levels of contamination are inside the recycling container.” Republic will be tagging non-serviced containers with instructions for residents when unacceptable contamination is determined. Pizza boxes, food waste, and non-recyclable materials all constitute contamination of the container. Information on what to recycle is available at www.recyclingsimplified.com

Republic Services letter indicates that this new practice of not picking up contaminated recycling bins will occur in “the near future.” Republic Services is the contracted waste hauler for Penn Hills Municipality. Republic was awarded a waste hauling contract for 2019-2021 in Penn Hills that increased costs to the municipality by \$1 million dollars.

“We want Penn Hills residents to know that the stricter enforcement is coming from Republic Services, and not the government of Penn Hills. If Penn Hills had a preference, it would not be the higher costs and stricter rules associated with recycling. Something that may have been acceptable in a recycling bin in the past is an issue now because of the economics of recycling,” Municipal Manager Scott Andrejchak explains. “This is happening throughout all of



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Republic's service area and not just Penn Hills, and we want residents to understand why it is happening. The answer for residents may be that if you have doubts about what you are putting into a recycling bin, you may want to just put it into a garbage can instead," Andrejchak cautioned.



February 26, 2019

Municipality of Penn Hills
Scott Andrejchak
Municipal Manager
102 Duff Road
Penn Hills, PA 15235

RE: Recycling Collection in Municipality of Penn Hills:

The global recycling crisis spurred by China has led communities across the country - including many of your neighboring surrounding municipalities— to recognize that today's recycling business model is broken. Contamination has become rampant through local recycling programs. And, these factors jeopardize the future of our local recycling programs.

Consumers play an important role in understanding what to recycle and how to avoid recycling contamination, or unwanted substances such as residual food or liquid that can be harmful to the recycling process. Recycling contamination can be anything other than what is intended to be collected and recycled. A contaminated item placed in the recycling container can come into contact with other recyclables, and potentially contaminate the entire truckload of recyclables.

As a leader in the recycling industry, Republic Services is committed to recycling and to bringing simple solutions to customers in an effort to help preserve local recycling programs. We're devoted to our customers throughout Western Pennsylvania, and passionate about providing simple solutions to their emerging recycling needs.

Republic Services is partnering with its local municipal partners to design a more durable, sustainable recycling business model. This means acknowledging the true cost of recycling, which includes the collecting and processing of recycled material, disposing of residual material and the sale of processed materials to buyers around the world.

As you know, the 2019 agreement between Penn Hills and Republic Services adjustmentsthe materials to be acceptedin the Curbside Recycling Program. Beginning in the near future Republic Services will be addressing the "contamination" portion of the acceptable materials at the curb. Residents may have service delayed or not occur if unacceptable levels of contamination are inside the recycling container. Non-serviced containers will be tag with instructions on proper handling of materials to be placed in the recycling container.

In addition, Republic is developingimproved recycling education programs that help to change recycling behaviors at home and at businesses in order to preserve these recycling programs. To learn more about how to be a better recycler and to find holiday recycling tips visit recyclingsimplified.com.