

I am writing to you on behalf of the residents of Hills Court Condo Association, which is located downtown, on Hills Avenue. My family, along with the other residents, would like to know why our fees for trash pickup are so much higher than other residents in the Concord area.

For residents in Concord it cost less than \$4 to purchase one of the bags allowed for trash pickup. Residents who purchase these bags can use them and have their trash picked up each week in front of their house. For residents of Hills Court, our trash must be brought to a dumpster that is located across a parking lot and down a set of unmaintained stairs that are often extremely slippery and covered in snow. That dumpster is located approximately 200 feet from our building. For this privilege, our family pays \$60 per month. At an average of one bag per week, we are now paying \$15 for each bag compared to \$4 that other Concord residents pay. This seems outrageous to the residents of our association.

Will the new apartments on Main street, where the old unemployment building was located, be paying these astronomical prices? The lowest fees paid by a residential unit in our building is \$50 per month for trash pickup. So with 64 new units going in a block away, that would mean that the city is going to collect \$3200 each month for trash pickup of the apartments, not including the businesses? What about all the other residential units downtown, such as the The Lofts and the Remi building, are they all paying high rates like us? Our rates can't be higher because we own our unit, unless someone can explain to us that owning a property produces more trash... and what about those who own houses and only pay \$4 per bag? That doesn't seem fair. Are the owners of all the residential apartment buildings in town, who are collecting rent each month, paying the equivalent (for each and ever unit they own), for trash pickup like we are for ours?

It confuses us how the fees are calculated to begin with. Our fees started at \$28 five years ago and have doubled since. Are they calculated based on square footage? That can't be because there are units in our building that are smaller than ours, (some significant) who are paying more than us. One person in our complex with a unit 200sf smaller than ours, is actually paying \$78 per month!!!!

Could the fees be calculated on assessed values? Well that would also not make sense because if it was, then that city would be saying that those with better floors and fancier appliances accumulate more trash. Are the houses in town that are valued at seven, eight, and nine hundred thousand dollars paying crazy high fees like we are?

Can the fees be calculated because we are located in the business district. Well, of the three business/commercial units located in our building, not one of them pays even close to the fees that each of us residents pay. In fact, we are paying in most cases, two and three times higher than them. Their fees seem normal for the spaces they own, while ours do not align at all with our space. The dumpster we use, is also used by several other businesses, including a restaurant, which account for the majority of trash. On days when that restaurant is closed, the dumpster is usually empty, in fact several days a week, the dumpster barely has anything in it, yet they come each morning to pickup trash that hasn't amounted to anything at all. They even put a second dumpster out there, for reasons we have yet to figure out. I hope the city is not paying Casella per trip!!!

I know that this letter is coming off with an angry and sarcastic tone, and for that I do apologize, but we are fed up with paying for trash fees that are way too high for the property we live in.

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