

Councilperson:

Right now there's only one dump in the city that takes household debris - and it's south of the river.

Richmond used to have a dump north of the river that took household debris...in the east end to be specific. For the first 3 or 4 years after the closure of the section of that dump to household debris I took the problem of its closure to my councilperson. I never got any response and certainly the problem hasn't been addressed. So tonight I'm bringing the problem to the full council because my infirmities have increased as has the problem of illegal dumping.

A trip to our city's only household-debris enabled dump is time consuming: it includes the drive and usually a long wait once on site. For elderly or disabled residents, enduring the trip and the wait and then having to lift the debris - like tires or old mattresses or broken sofas - out of a vehicle and up over a concrete barrier is often impossible.

So here we have Richmond with a population that's growing fast on a tsunami of new development and renovation....and a big number of us aren't just underserved - but effectively not served at all. A number that includes more than just the aged and infirm.

As pointed out by residents, by various city commissions, and by the media...Richmond's got a problem with illegal dumping, a problem that's growing about as fast as our population. In October, Channel 12 pointed out that the illegal dumpers in our city are winning. But what's getting dumped isn't all just the old tires mentioned in that story.

I've been told that the cost of reopening the dump to household debris might cost \$2million. That's less than the cost of ten, tall steel rings.

Reopening the dump to household debris will provide service to thousands who've been denied practical access to a place to dispose of this type of debris and will cut down on the city's growing problem of illegal dumping.

I'm paraphrasing from a recent interview with the mayor when I ask that you fix this long standing problem - it's the sort of thing we pay you to do.

Thanks...Ann Wortham, resident