

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today. I'm here to ask for your help in having the city enforce at least part of one of its ordinances, specifically Chapter 23, Sec. 23-44 (a). Most residents recognize the city's ongoing failure to enforce its own rules; but this particular instance, in addition to being illegal, continues to be a pedestrian safety hazard.

My name is Ann Wortham. Last year, in my 79th year, I had a stroke. During the few years prior to that I had both hips replaced and some major work on my lower back. Walking is a big part of maintaining my mobility.

However, less than two blocks from home walking safely is not possible. There is a blocked sidewalk which makes it necessary for anyone navigating a section of the public right of way to step into the street, into a travel lane, to get past.

Walking by yourself? Get in the street. Walking with a friend? Get in the street. Walking with a dog? Get in the street. Pushing a stroller? Get in the street.

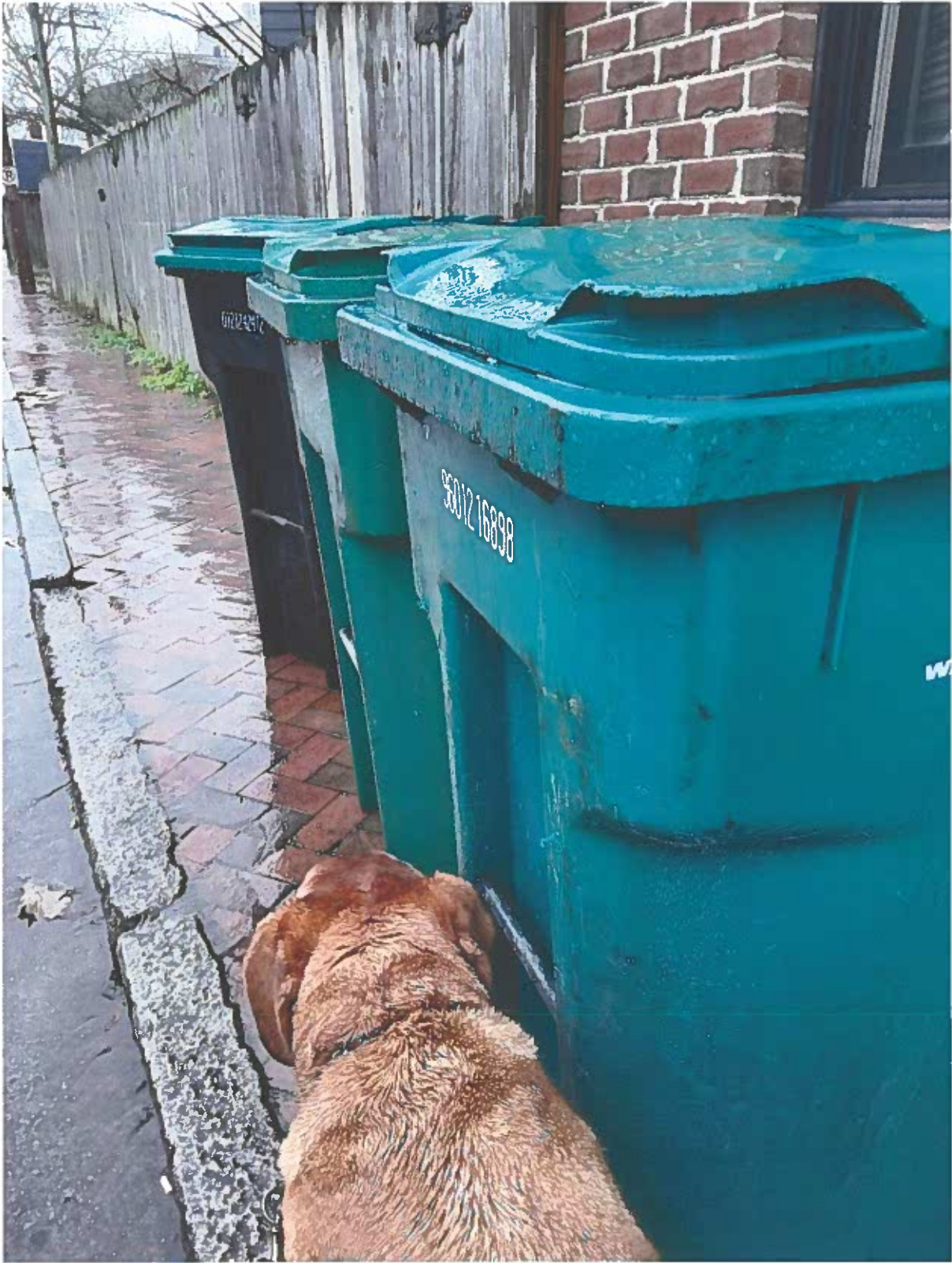
The sidewalk abuts a fairly new building which is home to multiple apartments and a restaurant. A section of the sidewalk is blocked by trash and recycling containers. During the past several years I and others in the neighborhood have filed 311 complaints, spoken on the phone with city staffers, reached out to city representatives, and met face to face on site with various city staffers...wasted time on our part.

After no response and thus no help from the city, I contacted the property owner, a local real estate agent and developer, and asked that he have his tenants move the receptacles into the space the city mandated for storage of these things (part of his building permit approval). He informed me that his tenants didn't have receptacles on the sidewalks. I let that drop rather than call him a liar, giving him the benefit of the doubt by assuming that the people who come out of his building carrying trash bags which they then put into the receptacles that block the sidewalk are people visiting his tenants who just brought their trash with them.

None of the photos below was taken within the ordinance-permitted pick up times. Instead, the problem is all day, all night, all the time. Again, not only is this ongoing problem illegal, it is dangerous.









falsebluff.com
smokeylanelagoon@gmail.com
ANN WORTHAM