



October 25, 2018

Matt Quinones, President  
Board of Representatives  
888 Washington Boulevard  
Stamford, CT 06904-2152

Dear Mr. Quinones:

I am writing to notify you that I am exercising Charter section C2-10-13 to veto "*Ordinance No. 1244 Supplemental, Amending section 137-27 of the Code of Ordinance; Allowing Loose Leaf or Bagged Leaves for City-wide Pickup.*"

As we all know, the City is providing loose leaf pickup this fall, as was originally planned when the 2018-19 operating budget was submitted to the Boards. Furthermore, it is my plan to again provide for a continuation of loose leaf pickup in next year's budget.

Therefore, this ordinance serves no practical purpose. Further, there are several issues:

As a rationale for the ordinance is the recital that ". . . *not all Stamford residents are prepared to make the shift to bagging their leaves after at (sic) 40 years of leaves being collected at the curb . . .*". This rationale does not apply this fall. And I have specifically heard from several representatives stating that they wanted more time to consider this issue as well as more time for a possible transition for residents. This ordinance would seem to obstruct that desire.

Another rationale is the recital that ". . . *the majority of Stamford's neighboring towns allow residents the option of either bagged or loose leaves . . .*". This is simply not true.

There are also legal issues surrounding the authority of this ordinance. And since we plan loose leaf pickup anyway, I have no reason to want to debate this legal question.

I am doing this after much thought because I believe it is the best interests of the City. There is no leaf pickup program that will make everyone happy in this diverse City. My administration is prepared to work with the Board to further consider this issue over the next several months. It's best to work together and have a deliberative discussion, gather information, and do our due diligence to understand the choices and implications upon the City and our residents – financial, environmental, and operational.

While this administration is constantly looking for ways to increase efficiency and reduce long-term costs, I sincerely hope to continue submitting budgets that do not result in a reduction of services.

Thank you for your hard work and input on this issue.

Very truly yours,

David R. Martin

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