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General Comments

I am tired of the favoritism shown by this city to certain well-connected folks at the expense of the rest of us. Here's are two examples.

Periodically since last summer, a neighbor has filled our garbage dumpster and that of two of our neighbors, with trash from their home clean out and apparent home demo project. At times, they've overfilled it with construction materials like wood, which according to my reading of city code, shouldn't go in those dumpsters.

Quite frequently the property owners have done this on Mondays after collection so that we are unable to dispose of our garbage for the whole week. At various times, we've asked them to quit doing it which they blatantly ignored. The sheer amount of garbage and waste should warrant they rent a roll-off, rather than constantly fill our dumpsters. Yes, it is that bad.

The property owner claims that GF Sanitation Department told them they could go ahead and fill the garbage dumpsters of their neighbors. The property owners told us, too bad if our garbage doesn't fit in the dumpster, we would just have to put our garbage outside the dumpster. Our understanding is that household garbage needs to be in the container, unless it's grass clippings, leaves, branches etc. By the way, the city sanitation manager hasn't responded to phone calls on this matter.

The sanitation manager lives on our block and turns a blind eye to this situation. Was he the one who told this property owner they could fill their neighbors containers? What are we neighbors supposed to do with our garbage when one property owner fills the dumpster we normally use along with adjacent ones. We want a refund of our city sanitation fees since May of last year, since our use of the city dumpster has been impacted at the apparent direction of city staff.

We noticed sanitation manager had a large GF garbage container parked on the street in front of his house for several months last summer. Did he get free use of that because he works for the city? We noticed also when

he first moved in, the alley behind his home was fixed immediately. Do you think this looks good for the city? Or does it bespeak of favoritism?

I have a car trailer that I've had to make arrangements for storing elsewhere. But I will soon be moving it and parking it for free at a city-owned park near my home.

I expect the city to allow this because in November 2019, I reported to city officials that a private business owner had been parking his business equipment at that city park for at least a year. I provided photographs as proof. I was first told there was nothing that could be done about it, then I was told someone would look into it. But it has continued to this day, probably because that business owner is on a city advisory board. Why should he get free storage for his business equipment at a city park?

*Official Code of the City of Great Falls*

*9.3.1.010 Park rules and regulations.*

*A. Parks are closed to vehicles and people from dusk to daylight, except during a Park and Recreation approved special event.*

When I lived in a different part of the city, I was unjustly threatened with citation for an unlicensed vehicle, which was on private property by permission and was legally licensed. So, I'm a bit incensed when a Great Falls resident with a close connection to the city flaunts the law and get away with it.

The city is practicing favoritism in the application of laws. We've also seen, favoritism in awarding of grants (past CDBG money allocations), favoritism in working with certain nonprofits and many would argue there is also favoritism in the awarding of city contracts.

So if you want to know why such a large number of city residents believe that there's a good-old-boy network at play within the City of Great Falls, it's because the proof is there and you don't need to look very hard to see it.