

REPLACEMENT FOR AGENDA ITEM #18

INTRODUCED BY:
James Sanchez, Councilman
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Court of Common Council
City of Hartford, October 26,2020

Proposed No Incineration Resolution

- WHEREAS, Public Act 14-94 called for proposals for the redevelopment of the Connecticut Solid Waste System which currently incinerates waste from 51 towns in Hartford's South Meadows, and
- WHEREAS, After prolonged negotiations between the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) and the selected vendor, Sacyr Rooney Recovery Team (SRRT), it was determined that the redevelopment project was not financially viable without a significant public investment, and
- WHEREAS, Governor Lamont and CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Commissioner Katie Dykes announced there would be no public investment to "keep a failing decades-old facility running" and that it was a "time for new ideas," and
- WHEREAS, Wholesale electric prices has collapsed and currently pay only \$0.02 - 0.04/kWh, making incineration of trash to produce electricity more costly resulting in increasing tipping fees, and
- WHEREAS, Incineration of municipal solid waste releases air emissions containing NOx, SO2, particulates, heavy metals, and dioxins that contribute to serious health impacts, and
- WHEREAS Over 50,000 people live within a 2- mile radius around the MIRA facility who suffer disproportionately high rates of asthma and other pre-existing health conditions; air pollution from the facility imposes significant environmental injustices and public health impacts on the community, and
- WHEREAS, Air pollution and, more importantly, air toxics from the MIRA facility impose significant environmental injustices and public health impacts on the community, and

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- WHEREAS, The state already transfers ~400,000 tons a year to out- of- state landfills, and it is unlikely that replacement capacity for the MIRA facility can be sited, permitted, constructed, and operational in time to avoid more reliance on transfer of CT waste to out- of- state facilities, and
- WHEREAS, Mixed waste processing technology exists that can recover organics and potentially recyclable material from delivered waste, coupled with Zero Waste strategies on the front end and biological treatment such as composting or anaerobic digestion on the back end, can reduce the amount for final disposal – by 40 to 60% and would significantly reduce methane emissions of any waste sent to landfill, now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, The City of Hartford will not accept any replacement to the current MIRA facility that relies on combustion of waste and fails to return the MIRA property to the City for economic development, and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the City of Hartford is opposed to any modification of MIRA’s permits to enable construction of a multi- modal transfer station to reduce the costs of shipping wastes out- of- state, and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the City of Hartford is actively engaged and has a meaningful role in developing closure plans for the MIRA facility, and be it further
- RESOLVED, That any waste treatment facility developed to replace the MIRA facility be appropriately sized based on a statewide strategy of more modular systems to fairly distribute the environmental burdens and incorporating mixed waste processing to maximize recovery of organics and potentially recyclable materials and minimize environmental and health effects of any residue sent for final disposal.