



## **'Pay as you throw' is more than meets the eyes**

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Is anyone in Gastonia paying attention to what this city council is doing? Paying fees for trash pick up is one thing. Paying fees for having our city government monitor our recycling activity by each residence and business is quite another thing.

What your city council and this newspaper have not told you is that the new recycling bins are equipped with radio frequency identification chips, RFID devices. If you didn't like the wiretapping of phones through the Patriot Act, you are going to love RFID chips monitoring your recycling. The chips are embedded with the address of each bin. The program is called, "Pay As You Throw" and was designed by the EPA. By enacting this EPA program, your city can be looked upon with favor for grants and subsidies from the Federal government, which is \$14.6 trillion in debt by the way. It is a pay to play system. The federal government is very good at bribes.

Here is how "Pay As You Throw" works. The Republic Waste Services truck comes to pick up your recycling. A mechanical arm lifts your bin and weighs it before unloading it into the truck. The weight data from your residence or business is stored and sent to a central database at Republic, who then sends the data to your city government for monitoring.

No mention of RFIDs was heard at the public council meetings. Not a word. The only hint came during a discussion as Mayor Stultz said cheerfully, "When a neighborhood is not recycling enough we can send in people to educate that neighborhood." The council members all knew about the RFID monitoring program. They adopted this program unanimously. Council members Howren, Tidwell, Craig, Reid, Burkett, Kirlin and Mayor Stultz all voted to monitor your recycling activity. Further, the council voted for mandatory compliance, payment from citizens, and no opt out. Not voluntary. You will be monitored.

In the recent meeting to consider the contract with Republic Waste Services, council members Craig and Burkett played devil's advocates by voting no when they knew very well the measure would pass. After all, they voted for this program with the rest of the council in the first place. (These council members have played that game in the past with the Carolina Thread Trail, voting for it and then acting shocked when implementing the Trail required eminent domain. This is like John Kerry voting for the war before he was against it.) They know precisely what they are doing by voting to enact something under the radar that would be against the voters' wishes and then pretending to be against it when they are assured the program will pass. This is misleading the voters, false pretense and disingenuous. The public should take note of it.

In Cleveland, Ohio, where the program is in force, the public is subjected to fines of \$100 for non-compliance. Cleveland has gone so far as to use their police to raid trash bins to bust residents in case of not recycling enough. If you think that cannot happen here, you don't know how government officials think. This is one step closer to Smart Meters on your utility boxes. Once the precedent is set to monitor one activity at your home, there is no stopping more of the same. Your city council and mayor are deliberately signing you up for surveillance by the government.

While you were busy working to survive and looking the other way, your city council has just set you up with trash policing. I hope you will remember this in the coming election of a new city council and mayor. The "Pay As You Throw" program is more than meets the eye. This council deliberately put you into a database in order to control your activity. Do the ends justify the means? Ask Karl Marx.

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<http://www.gastongazette.com/articles/paying-60883-city-thing.html>