

Reporting Observations of Theft of Recyclable Materials

Recently, the Environmental Waste Services Department has noticed an increasing trend in complaints as observed and reported by residents and City employees about individuals taking recyclable materials from the recycling bins. Theft of recyclable commodities is not an uncommon problem in North Texas or elsewhere across the nation.

City Ordinance, Section 52.18 states, "Title to all solid waste placed for collection by the City shall be vested in the City immediately upon placement by the person disposing of such solid waste." This includes recyclable material set out for collection. Therefore, it is illegal to take solid waste or recyclable materials intended for collection by the City. The sale of recyclable materials generates significant revenue for the City of Garland.

Steps for Reporting Theft Violations:

If you observe anyone taking these recyclable materials, follow the steps outlined below for reporting the violation:

1. Write down a detailed description of the vehicle, including license plate number;
2. Write down a detailed description of the individual driving the vehicle, if possible;
3. Write down where the material is placed in the vehicle (ex: inside the trunk, in the bed of a pickup, inside the car, etc.)
4. Write down the last known location of the vehicle.
5. Contact the Garland Police Department immediately at 972.485.4840.

The Garland Police Department will attempt to locate the vehicle. If the violator is caught, the Police Department will issue a citation for the violation for theft (\$0-\$20), which is a Class C misdemeanor resulting in a \$500 fine.