

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CITY ASKING RESIDENTS TO HELP STOP CURBSIDE RECYCLING THEFTS

VALLEJO – Spurred on by a rash of thefts of recyclable materials from neighborhoods, the City of Vallejo is asking residents to help with efforts to stop this activity.

The City's Recycling Coordinator and the Beat Health Division of the Vallejo Police Department are kicking off a neighborhood recycling theft reporting program that they hope will result in the reduction of the number of thefts of recyclable materials.

"Theft of recycling has a direct impact on the cost of providing this service to our residents," said Derek Crutchfield, recycling coordinator for Vallejo. "Money raised by the sale of recycling materials from neighborhoods helps defray the cost of providing that service. When recycling is stolen, that means the recycler has less revenue and that could lead to an increase in recycling rates for our residents. "

As a result, the City is kicking off its reporting program with a series of announcements in the local media and Channel 28, the government access channel, as well as developing a recycling theft card that will be distributed to all residents reporting theft of recycling materials from their neighborhood.

"We're asking residents to help us identify the people who are taking these recycling materials," Crutchfield said. "We need them to be our eyes and our ears."

According to Crutchfield, his office has recently received calls from six different neighborhoods reporting that recycling materials from bins set out along their entire block had been stolen. Those recyclables have a cash value that helps defray the costs of the curbside recycling program.

Police will drop off a card for residents reporting recycling thefts in their neighborhood to fill out. Residents are asked to call (707) 648-5262 or 644-4VPD. The card has some basic questions, such as a description of the person who took the items, any vehicle used and, if possible, a license plate number. Once completed, the cards should be mailed to the Beat Health Offices, 250 Georgia Street, Vallejo 94590.

"It's a basic card that allows us to get key information that can be used to build a case against these people," said Sgt. Bob Sampayan of the Vallejo Police Department Beat Health program. "Our goal is to stop the theft of recyclable materials. We want to help as much as possible."

Sampayan said resident participation is really the key to making this program effective.

"We need the people of Vallejo to help us with this effort," he said. "We hope this will allow us to build a database of information that can be used to stop individuals from taking recycling materials."

Along with curbside recycling, the City recently implemented a construction and demolition

recycling ordinance, has held several e-waste recycling days, a tire recycling day and has other efforts planned for the future.

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