



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 23, 2015

MEDIA CONTACTS

Kellie Stickney
Community Engagement Specialist
206-780-3741

Repeated Illegal Food-Waste Dumping in Winslow Area

Bainbridge Island, Wash., (March, 2015) In the last several weeks, City maintenance crews and Water Resource's staff have responded to several identical illicit dumping incidents around the downtown area. Each incident has involved plastic produce bags that have been filled with what appears to be liquid food waste, and then placed on the top of trash receptacles around the Winslow area including Waterfront Park and City Hall. It appears the bags have been intentionally placed to attract animals. Birds and raccoons are tearing open the bags causing the contents to spill over the cans and onto the ground. These incidents are causing potential human health hazards, and when it rains, these materials wash off the cans onto the ground and enter the drainage system that discharges to Eagle Harbor, causing potential degradation of water quality.

City staff has been unable to track the source of the materials or the person(s) responsible. In accordance with BIMC 8.16.040 it is illegal to dispose of trash in this manner, and BIMC 15.22 makes it illegal to discharge anything other than stormwater to the City's stormwater drainage system.

Please help protect public health and our water resources. If you witness illegal dumping or a suspicious discharge, please contact the Spills Hotline at (360) 337.5777, or the Public Works Department at (206) 842.2016 or waterresources@bainbridgewa.gov immediately. For all severe spills or discharges that pose an imminent threat to life or the environment call 911.

###