

Mayor Gail Coniglio
Council President Danielle Moore
Council President Pro Tem Maggie Zeidman
Council Member Julie Araskog
Council Member Lew Crampton
Council Member Bobbie Lindsay
Deputy Town Manager Jay Boodheshwar

Re: Palm Beach Hotel Garbage Collection

Dear Mayor, Council Members, and Deputy Town Manager:

I trust you'll have time to read this letter prior to your hearing December 10 to review an appeal of the decision of Public Works Director Paul Brazil.

I am opposed to the appeal. I am the resident-owner of 256 Park Avenue. With my Corgis, Betty and Barney, we are frequent visitors to the "dog park" east of Dr Nasser's home at 242 Park Ave. I also walk them around the block down Park, across North County, up Sunrise, across Bradley, and down Park—often at 5:30 am and often at 9:30. We also walk up Park after a loop across Wells in the mid-morning. I walk past this mess frequently. I think I see the problem from all sides.

There's no doubt that the hotel's disposing of their trash and garbage on our street is irritating—especially as so much effort is going into upgrading the street. The garbage stinks and the row of trash and garbage containers on the curb is unsightly. If something lands on the ground in the transfer process, it may not get picked up. I have to pay close attention to keep the Corgis from grabbing the most vile, disgusting thing they find. The hotel's garbage is an annoyance for me, but it's a particular nuisance for Dr Nasser (next door) and Mr Ohannessian (across the street).

From "walking around" with the dogs, I see the problem clearly and can offer a potential solution.

The hotel has a fairly simple alternative to putting their garbage on Park Avenue. They can push their trash around the hotel and put it on Sunrise at the east end of the building. There is a concrete path from where the containers are kept behind the hotel to this spot. The curb in the area is already cut and "red" so a garbage truck can park out of "traffic" to load the trash into a garbage truck. The garbage, the cans, and what's dropped can be gone before the stores open. The hotel has erected fences and locked gates both behind the building and to the east of the building, presumably for security reasons. They can allow their employees to open them.

Other businesses—notably the PB Catch restaurant—leave trash out every night and haul their cans in early in the morning. The dogs never find anything to investigate. The businesses at the Biltmore Plaza like Mildred Hoit and the Fedco Pharmacy have an off-street trash pad where

tenants leave trash in containers for pick-up. Sunrise is kept pristine because the people who put out the trash want it to look good. When they use Park Avenue, they care less.

But we care. Park Avenue is our neighborhood. The hotel should be responsible for minimizing its mess and putting the “mess” on Sunrise will encourage them to minimize it. They will clean up their act for a Council Member visit, but that isn’t their everyday practice.

There’s really no reason to allow anyone to put their trash in our neighborhood—especially when there’s a good alternative.

Best wishes,

Tom Myers