

LETTER: Trash rates confounding

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SAN ANGELO, Texas - Ron Anderson, San Angelo

Trash rates confounding

I guess that I missed an important item in the information about the contract agreement with Republic Services when it was being discussed in the news.

I called Republic after learning that many of my neighbors were paying much lower rates for their trash pickup. After a lengthy conversation, I was finally told that my rate would be lowered significantly (from almost \$70 to \$25.94). I was also told that I would receive a refund.

This was in July, and I never heard from Republic again until a few days after my trash pickup was suspended in September and I received an invoice for \$119, which included two months of service, a late fee and a \$35 reinstatement fee. (My trash was being picked up at the same time the truck stopped to pick up my neighbor's trash, directly across the street).

I live one block out of the city limits. Residents between my home and the city limits are on city water and trash pickup is included for \$14, even though they also reside outside of the city limits.

When I expressed my frustration to the mayor and my county commissioner, I was told that the contract applied only to customers within the city limits. It appears that some residents outside of the city limits are subject to whatever charge Republic decides to impose, while those inside city limits are protected by the new contract that provided the city with several million dollars.

Needless to say, I will not continue to be abused by Republic Services and am using an alternative company. One last thing — my monthly bill to Republic was not actually \$25.94, it turned out to be \$41.77 because of an “Environmental Recovery Fee.” It seems that Republic has been given a license to take all the money it wants from county residents.

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