



Additional Documents Distributed for the City Council Meetings of October 18, 2023

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02.	PUBLIC COMMENT - GENERAL	Claire S.	Email to Council
02.	PUBLIC COMMENT - GENERAL	Chris Bray	Email to Council
13.	CONSIDERATION OF UPDATED OPTIONS TO AMEND THE CITY'S EXCLUSIVE REFUSE SERVICE AGREEMENT RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SB 1383 REQUIREMENTS	Susan S.	Email to Council
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13.	CONSIDERATION OF UPDATED OPTIONS TO AMEND THE CITY'S EXCLUSIVE REFUSE SERVICE AGREEMENT RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SB 1383 REQUIREMENTS	David Johnson	Email to Council

From: [Claire Simonich](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Subject: Vera Institute Public Comment on Bail Policy
Date: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 12:00:52 PM
Attachments: [South Pasadena - Vera Written Public Comment for City Council - Bail Policy.docx.pdf](#)

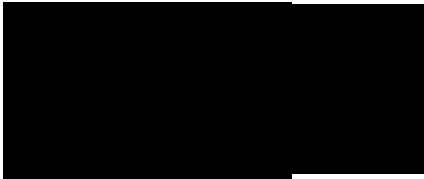
Dear South Pasadena City Council Members,

My name is Claire Simonich. I live in Los Angeles and am the Associate Director of Vera California, a local initiative of the Vera Institute of Justice, which advances policies and practices that will make California a model for promoting community safety, ending mass incarceration, and advancing racial justice.

Please see the attachment for my public comment on the court's new bail policy. If you have any trouble accessing the document, please let me know and I can resend it.

Warmly,
Claire

Claire Simonich
Associate Director, Vera California



October 17, 2023

South Pasadena City Council:

Via email: ccpubliccomment@southpasadenaca.gov

Mayor Jon Primuth
Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn G. Zneimer
Councilmember Michael A. Cacciotti
Councilmember Jack Donovan
Councilmember Janet Braun

Re: Support – Implementation of the Superior Court’s new bail policy, the Pre-Arraignment Release Protocols (PARP)

Dear South Pasadena City Council,

My name is Claire Simonich. I live in Los Angeles and am the Associate Director of Vera California, a local initiative of the Vera Institute of Justice (Vera) advancing policies and practices that will make California a model for ending mass incarceration, promoting community safety, and advancing racial justice. Vera has worked on pretrial policy across the country—from Michigan to Kentucky to New Jersey—for more than 60 years.

We are writing to share research, data, and factual information regarding the Superior Court’s new bail policy, the Pre-Arraignment Release Protocols (PARP), which is a step forward towards a more fair, just, and safe pretrial system.

The PARP policy rightfully shifts away from money bail and recommends administrative release for people charged with misdemeanors and low-level felonies.

The court’s policy does not represent a radical change in the pretrial system and instead builds off years of similar bail policies and assessment of those policies. For the past three years, the county has had a bail schedule (often called the “emergency bail schedule” or EBS) on and off where many people charged with low-level offenses were released through administrative means, like citations, instead of having traditional cash bail imposed. Like the emergency bail schedule, the PARP policy recommends administrative release for low-level offenses. The policies of having pre-arraignment magistrate reviews and a money bail system for people detained until arraignment [continue](#).

Extensive research demonstrates that reforms like the PARP policy are good for public safety.

[Vera analyzed](#) the Los Angeles Police Department’s own data from the EBS period and found that violent crime and property crime in Los Angeles were lower or remained effectively unchanged under the EBS from the two-year period before the policy. As in Los Angeles, studies from around the country repeatedly find that reforms like the PARP policy *are not linked to an increase in violent or nonviolent crime*. The courts in Harris County, Texas—home to Houston—issued a standing order in 2019 for most people charged with misdemeanors to be released without money bond. An independent federal monitor tasked with analyzing the data [found](#) that far more people are now being released pretrial and that these higher release rates did not translate to higher rearrest rates—rearrest rates have stayed largely constant from before and after the policy change.

The Kentucky Supreme Court issued statewide orders similar to what is in the PARP, including release for nonviolent and nonsexual lower level felonies, and found that [the data showed](#) releasing more people does not compromise public safety. In 2017, the court mandated administrative pretrial release for most misdemeanors; 92 percent of those released were not rearrested. In 2020, after the policy expanded to include the aforementioned felonies, rearrest remained low and 89 percent of people were not rearrested.

In New York, despite the fearmongering around bail reform, a rigorous academic study found that it [reduced overall re-arrest and felony re-arrest among people released under the new law, compared to a pre-reform comparison group. Further, research shows no correlation](#) between bail reform policies and an increase in violent crime. These research findings counter false claims that the PARP policy is likely to increase crime.

The Council should not be swayed by critics’ fearmongering and misleading claims.

Critics of the PARP policy frequently cite the Yolo County District Attorney’s reports claiming their emergency bail schedule led to a huge increase in crime. The Yolo County DA reports should not be credited because they are significantly flawed. They are based on a small sample size—one study was of 100 people (compared to the tens of thousands studied in Houston’s or Kentucky’s policies which are similar in scope to PARP’s)—and without establishing the proper research protocols that would show a discrete policy change causing a specific outcome (e.g., increased arrests). The robust research on similar policies with larger sample sizes—including from Los Angeles itself—should inform the Council.

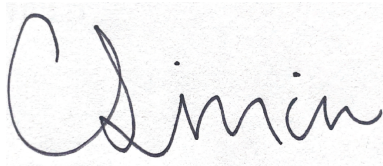
Ultimately, more pretrial detention will not benefit public safety, nor justice.

[Research](#) demonstrates that just 24 hours in jail increases the likelihood that someone will be arrested again because of the destabilizing effect of detention and the resulting loss of jobs, housing, and community ties.

In addition to building safety, PARP serves justice. Only those who cannot pay experience the harms of pretrial detention, from the horrors of jail to housing instability or homelessness. The PARP policy ensures that a person's wealth does not determine whether they are free or in jail.

By following the research on public safety and policies like PARP, we have an opportunity to spare many people the harmful destabilization of pretrial incarceration and spare Angelenos the results of such destabilization. South Pasadena's City Council should speak out in support of the Superior Court's new bail policy, educate the public about its public safety benefits, and encourage the court to monitor and share data analysis on implementation at regular intervals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Simonich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Claire Simonich
Initiative Associate Director
Vera California

From: [Chris Bray](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Subject: general public comment, oct. 18 2023 open session
Date: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 11:19:11 PM

Councilmembers,

On September 21, 2022, the South Pasadena City Council approved two related items: the lease of a fleet of twenty Teslas for the police department, and the construction of charging stations for that fleet and for other cars: "Over the course of the next year, charging infrastructure will be installed." Over the course of the next year: September to September. This discussion before the council suggested that the charging stations for the police fleet would be operational in October of 2023. A city report on the project said this:

"In partnership with Southern California Edison's (SCE) Charge Ready program, thirty-four Level 2 chargers will be installed in the Police Department, Fire Department, and public employee parking lots. Fourteen of the chargers will be made available for public use. One additional Level 3 DC, dual-port, fast-charger will be installed in the Police Department parking lot. Additionally and in partnership with the Clean Power Alliance (CPA) Power Ready program, solar panels and battery storage will be installed in a city-owned, public parking lot directly across the street from the City Hall Complex. The CPA Power Ready Program system will support critical electrical usage with emergency backup power in the event of a power grid disruption."

The MOU you approved between the City of South Pasadena and the Clean Power Alliance said this about the charging stations that were to be built "in the City public parking lot adjacent to City Hall at the southeast corner of Hope Street and Mound Avenue," and which were to include "solar carports in the parking lot":

"CPA will make a commercially reasonable effort to ensure construction of the Solar+Storage System begins no later than June 30, 2023, and will coordinate with Member Agency to determine a mutually agreeable construction schedule."

June passed with no action, and October arrives with no outcome. It would be pleasant to one day see the City of South Pasadena complete literally any plan on something kind of remotely like the promised timeline. What happened? What's the new timeline? Did you know when you approved this plan that the timeline for it was make-believe?

Chris Bray
South Pasadena resident

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From: [Susan Sulsky](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Jon Primuth](#); [Armine Chaparyan](#); [Ted Gerber](#); [Environmental Programs](#)
Subject: Public Comment for City Council Meeting 10/18/2023 Item #13
Date: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 5:53:52 AM

City Council Agenda Packet: Item 13: CONSIDERATION OF UPDATED OPTIONS TO AMEND THE CITY'S EXCLUSIVE REFUSE SERVICE AGREEMENT RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SB 1383 REQUIREMENTS

It is disconcerting that the decision to negotiate with Athens Services is a fait accompli. While I have no problem with Athens, it is in the best interest of residents if there is a competitive bidding process to secure the best price and services.

To that end I would ask that other refuse service providers, such as Republic Services (the company used in Alhambra) be asked to submit a bid for services. Moreover, has any consideration been given to entering into a joint service arrangement with the cities of San Marino and Alhambra to negotiate with a new or existing refuse service where the volume of 3 cities holds more leverage than just one.

Thank you,
Susan Sulsky

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From: [Steve Koch](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Subject: Organics Recycling and Trash Collection
Date: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 12:54:17 PM

October 17, 2023

We've had great Athen's service for the last 26 years and frankly **I was shocked to hear that you are considering taking away "backyard service". That would be a terrible idea for many reasons:**

- I'm pretty sure almost no one wants to drag their trash cans to and from the curb each week, I lived in Highland Park for 11 years where we did that and it's not fun.
- Several of our nearby residents are elderly and I can't imagine burdening them with the chore of dragging trash cans around.
- Aesthetically, the idea of seeing South Pasadena's beautiful streets lined with trash cans is well, a terrible idea.
- I live in an area where the street gets parked up with customers and others on a regular basis. Adding 3+ trash cans per house to the mix will be problematic for both residents with trash cans and people needing to park their cars, bad idea.
- In general I think it's just a terrible idea to take away a service that has been so convenient and so successful for the vast majority of residents.


My suspicion is that Athens would love to get rid of lots of it's employees while at the same time convince us *that curbside service is what we want.* It seems like a ploy to increase Athen's bottom line.

I was surprised to hear that there was a survey in the city asking for our input on the trash issue, I've looked over old e-mails from the city and I don't see it. I was shocked to hear you guys say that around 40% of residents would like to change to curbside trash pick-up, I don't believe that statistic would actually hold up if all of the residents participated.

Also, I think the "backyard service" terminology for our current contract could be better described as "**driveway** service". I feel that the "backyard" reference can be confusing.

In summary, we should self-sort our organic waste and add it to our green yard waste bins, while retaining our fantastic backyard service. From what I understood, the price for this solution would be about the same. It seems like a no-brainer to me.

Thank you.

Steve Koch


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From: [Carol](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Tamara Binns](#)
Subject: Public Comment # 13 Athens BYS vs CSS - 100% for keeping the "backyard" service.
Date: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 1:29:05 PM

October 17, 2023

Dear City Council Members,

I am 100% for keeping the "backyard" service. We lived as renters in LA with curbside service. Lots of things go wrong with it. I can't imagine that anyone who's experienced both types of service, would want to switch to curbside pick-up.

What we ***didn't*** like about **Curbside pickup**:

1. **Fights over reduced parking** spaces which we saw could lead to keyed cars and flat tires.
2. **Cars can be damaged** if parked too close to your or/your neighbors trash cans on trash service day. Either something heavy was occasionally dropped on nearby cars or bad driving by the trash trucks (or badly timed mechanical arm drop??)? And, if not witnessed (provable by video), the car owner is out of luck.
3. If you **forget** to take the trash out before you leave = **no trash service** that week.
4. **Tipped over trash bins** (animals? homeless? bored kids?) means don't get service that day (unless your truck driver is kind)
5. I believe there was a cost of replacement for **stolen**, "lost," damaged bins.
6. Eventually we had to spray paint our address to help keep our barrel from getting mixed up with our neighbors (FYI it helps to have a *second* location for the address that wont be so easily noticed since spray painting out your address and writing-over is possible too) and/or your bin is stolen outright by ?? - and is never found.
7. If you forget to bring the barrels back in afterwards, I remember some type of penalties because of street sweeping/no parking days.
8. I'm guessing there could also be a lot of **tree damage occurring**. We have friends who straddle the border of Pasadena/San Marino because the border cuts through their property like it does for some houses in Alhambra and South Pasadena. While visiting last week I witnessed a Pasadena trash truck making it's way down the Pasadena part of their narrow street (which wouldn't work if there were cars parked on her street). One car driver heading west pulled into a neighbors driveway to get out of the way till the trash truck passed by. It made me nervous to watch the trash truck

haul it's bulking mass through the overhanging tree canopy. While living in LA I never witnessed the trouble with trees and the huge trash trucks since we didn't have the same kind of tree cover over our streets back then that we have here in South Pasadena, Pasadena and San Marino.

9. And... there is this possible confusion with neighbors cans and the "rules" which just happened to my sister last week in OC (imagine your at work - you have three bins, one **black**, one **green** and one **blue**):

*I had gotten a notice from Rainbow trash that they had become aware that there were 3 **black** trash cans at the house. We are only allowed one included in our bill, after that they are \$38 each a year. So we needed to pay \$76 or have them picked up. So I called Rainbow and said "the extra cans are not ours, we didn't want them" and arranged to have the extra two picked up, which they did. Then later I find out we didn't actually have 3 originally, only 2 so now we have none! Still need to contact Rainbow to get the (**black**) can back. My concern was just avoiding the extra fees. Not sure why the company thought we had 3 unless it has something to do with that noisome neighbor again.*

What we **do like** about **Back Yard Service**.

1. We're getting older. Having our permanent driveway structure for hiding/holding the bins means we never have to move the bins ourselves... so aging in home is easier for us.
2. Never miss a service by forgetting to take the bins to the curb or having them tipped over.
3. No stolen bins or extra charges (or someone mistakenly reporting they think you have "extra" as my sister experienced)
4. No parking issues
5. No damaged cars
6. No visual cans or mess on the streets (especially after *something* gets into them, tips them over and pulls all the trash out)
7. You can call Athens and they send a driver out right away if they "forgot" you. This doesn't happen in LA - you wait another week - but don't overstuff the next bins.
8. Problem free BYS service which is heads above the LA and OC **Curbside headache** version.

Plus cost-wise, I understood from the July meeting, that some homes in the city which are located in the "Hard-to-Service Area", can only have the smaller truck/"BYS". But the burden of cost for the BYS for them would become very

high because the extra expense cannot be spread over the full city's service billing (the new law dictates that). And yet these residents would still have to haul their bins to the street if there was no access to their yards. Whereas, if we keep the "Back Yard Service" that we all have now, the cost would increase for all, but not terribly. Which seems like the kinder solution for our fellow citizens who live in the "Hard-to-Service Areas". In my estimation, the convenience of keeping BYS for the rest of us NOT living in the "Hard-to-Service Areas", outweighs an incremental cost increase for all.

Having experienced the Curbside Service in LA before we moved to Back Yard Service Paradise in South Pasadena, I realize BYS is just one of the many perks that makes living our city so enjoyable.

Thanks for considering my input!

Carol Kramer
South Pasadena, CA

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From: [Joe Potts](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Subject: AGENDA ITEM 13
Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:49:33 AM

I have to reject the alternatives to the current waste collection plan which have been proposed, as they are absurd and unworkable.

The original survey did not present the alternatives completely and accurately, so must be totally rejected.

As much as it pains me to do so I must strongly support the “No Change” option.

I’m sure by now it must be quite apparent to all of you that the vast majority of residents are deeply unhappy with Athens and the Services it provides the City.

Joe Potts

District 1

See Ya

Joe



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From: [Joanne Nuckols](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Carol Koch](#)
Subject: #13 Trash/Keep BYs!!!
Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 11:34:53 AM

Dear City Council, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

My husband Tom and I, have experience with both types of service both back yard pick up (BYS) in South Pasadena and the proposal for the alternative curbside service with the big trucks at our property in Salinas. If you have the opportunity to experience both types first hand, which you need to see yourself before making a decision, you would not even consider curbside for South Pasadena. Any possible minimal decrease in cost is far outweighed by the large number of negatives which have been spelled out for you, particularly at the July 20 meeting.

I feel the survey is invalid and seriously flawed. I have talked to a number of people and not one of them, currently with BYs, remembers even getting a survey. Additionally, if the survey was sent or responded to by businesses or renters in town, who do not have BYs, it cannot be relied on for making any decisions. It should only have been sent to those with BYs who will be the most negatively affected by the change which is the biggest component of this discussion now, or should be anyway, not complying with some state law about air quality.

There are many more issues to discuss before the council makes a final decision, which is a huge decision which has generated a lot of heated debate. After reviewing the agenda packet information as did Tom and I and having a 10 minute conversation, many more pieces of information are missing that would benefit an help make an informed decision about a change of service or not. I'm saying this because Tom is a Civil/Environmental Engineer specializing in landfills and trash which has been his business for 45 years. I think there are probably other resident experts to contribute to the conversation so that we end up with the right decision with all the information that is available.

In general, we are satisfied with the service provided by Athens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joanne Nuckols
South Pasadena

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council Public Comment; Tamara Binns](#)
Subject: Public Comment # 13 Athens BYS vs CSS - 100% for keeping the "backyard" service.
Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 11:44:39 AM

October 18, 2023

Dear City Council Members,

I am 100% for keeping the "backyard" service.

Please do not downgrade our city. Lets keep the good trash service we have, similar to San Marino.

Point of note, I did not receive the survey, nor did any of the neighbors I have talked to, how many others did not receive it - raises serious questions to the survey's accuracy.

David Johnson



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