

*Teamwork Toledo Presser*  
*August 9, 2009*  
*Garbage Tax Increase*

(Tricia)

Thank you for coming this afternoon.

The purpose of this press conference is to call on Toledo City Council once again to reject the mayor's call for an increase in the monthly trash tax.

This time, two council members—Joe McNamara and Steve Steel, who also are running to retain their seats—have submitted a proposal to make such a tax increase more palatable through a so-called “recycling rewards” program.

Their mantra—Toledoans can earn more money back than their shelling out in a tax increase...**IF** local grocery stores and businesses offer discounts and rewards. That's a big **IF** in this economy.

Toledoans already have an incentive to recycle...the current trash tax costs them less if they sort their paper, glass, and cans—and take it out of the waste stream.

Now, two of their elected representatives want to change the rules of the game mid-way through—by raising that same fee...and making citizens work even harder to see any incentive.

Let's reduce another waste stream instead. Cut city government waste some more—reach for the budget book again and take another look to find the eight million dollars needed--instead of trying to reach into our wallets again.

(John)

This issue goes right to the heart of Teamwork Toledo's platform—no new taxes.

Toledo City Council, to its credit, has drawn a line in the sand and resisted the mayor twice already on his proposed tax increases.

Hold that line—and do it a third time. Don't slip into the quicksand of politics—and let that line get redrawn.

In fact, we believe it would be political suicide for a council flip-flop now—with at least four of them up for re-election.

A trash tax increase is the **EASY** way out—and would only send a message to citizens that it's the same, old tired politics of the past.

Simply put, **JUST SAY NO**—again. Send a different message to citizens this time—that you're actually listening...and doing the will of the people.

(Kevin)

There is **never** a good time for to raise taxes on Toledoans. Now, during an economic downturn, is certainly the **worst** time to even consider it. Add to that a new proposal that would make city government even bigger—with more rules, regulations, and red tape—and it's just more reason to reject it.

*(Hold up wallet)* Toledoans only have to look in their wallets to see two things: one, there's no cash left to pay for an increase in the trash tax.

*(Get out reward cards)* Number two, many **already** have enough reward cards to get cheaper groceries.

**Show some leadership:** go back to the drawing board, make the tough choices, and vote for the cuts necessary to balance the budget like we all do at home or at our businesses.

We'll even make a suggestion to get you halfway to your goal: meet with the Metroparks...and find a way to end the duplication of services in maintaining our community's parks. The city is spending four million dollars each year on parks and recreation.

Taxpayers are funding them to the tune of four TIMES that amount annually. For the greater good of our community, there MUST be some common ground there—why do we need two sets of mowers, managers, and maintenance staff?

It's an idea Teamwork Toledo proposed several weeks ago...and it fell on deaf ears.

The idea solves other problems, too. Take that millions in savings, HIRE A NEW FIRE CLASS to cut the city's overtime problem, then use that savings, in turn, to hire back **ALL 75** police officers, not just 31. (We'll be happy to answer any questions you have.)