



## City of Dallas

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**  
**Dallas City Hall – 1500 Marilla, L1FN Conference Room “B”**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**June 2, 2008**  
**9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

### MINUTES

#### **Members Present**

Sheron C. Patterson  
Cheryl S. Camin  
Keith Kwoh  
Sylvia Lagos  
Meredith McQuiston  
Mandy Valasek  
Mary Warner  
Kedra Williams

#### **Members Absent**

Jon (Tad) Heimbürger  
Diane Benjamin  
David J. Metzler  
Reginald Seastrunk  
Linda Sharp

#### **Staff Present**

Dilip Shah, Environmental and Health Services Department  
Lilia Gonzalez, Environmental and Health Services Department  
Frank Camp, Office of Environmental Quality  
Laura Fiffick, Office of Environmental Quality  
Adam Jochelson, Sanitation Services  
David Howe, City Attorney's Office

#### **Public Present**

None

#### **Minutes**

Dr. Sheron C. Patterson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. Minutes from the May 5, 2008 were not approved. Revised minutes will be presented to the commission at the next EHC meeting for approval.

#### **Disposal and Recycling of CRT**

##### **Laura Fiffick, Director, Office of Environmental Quality**

Ms. Laura Fiffick updated the commission on background within the region and the city with e-waves. E-waves are discarded electronic devices for example in televisions and cell phones. In the past ten years, the amount of e-waves has grown. It is accepted in landfills but contain mercury and other toxins. The city wants to make sure that e-waves are disposed properly and setup opportunities for recycling of e-waves.

**Environmental Health Commission Minutes**  
**June 2, 2008**  
**Page 2**

Citizens can place e-waves out on bulk trash. The e-waves will go to the landfill where staff there will dispose of. Other options are to send to recertified recyclers. Some recyclers ensure that all parts recycled stay in the U.S. Others recycle everything they can here in the U.S. but send some to third world countries. Another option is that if it still a working device take it some place where people can sell it. For example, second hand stores will sell televisions and computers as long as they are working. Ms. Fiffick also mentioned that there is a home chemical facility that will take cell phones, computers, batteries, florescent light bulbs. The facility is located on Plano Road.

Ms. Fiffick informed the commission that the City has a committee on e-waves that is looking to improve and expand the program. Office of Environmental Quality is partnering with Sanitation Services. In the last legislative session, TCEQ was directed to develop an e-waste program where computer makers would take back their product so that the consumer can drop the product off free of charge.

Mrs. Mandy Valasek asked Ms. Fiffick how to find out if a recycler is legitimate or not. Ms. Fiffick responded that she should call the recycler and ask what is being done with the materials and if it is taken overseas.

Ms. Kedra Williams asked if marketing or education materials were being distributed to home owners or citizens regarding the disposal. Ms. Fiffick responded that it has not been done but in collaboration with Sanitation Services, information could be put on [www.greendallas.net](http://www.greendallas.net).

Mr. Keith Kwoh mentioned that placing e-waste out in the regular recycle bins would be a good idea. He believes by placing the e-waste in the recycle bins the recycle truck would have to take it and recycle it anyway. Ms. Fiffick stated that the recycling bins go to a facility that only handles paper, plastics and cans as stated in their contract. She also stated that this would create a cost issue and become a contaminant issue.

Dr. Sheron C. Patterson stated that the average person in Dallas might now want to look on the sheet and figure out who to call and where to take the product to. She believes that some people are not as eco-friendly as others. She believes that Mr. Kwoh's suggestion might be something to consider.

Mrs. Mary Warner asked if the amount of materials from a television a significant amount when it is broken. Mr. Adam Jochelson stated that a greater number can become an issue. He stated that the potential for contamination near the landfill is minimal.

A copy of Ms. Fiffick's presentation was provided to the commission.

**Disposal and Recycling of CRT**

**Adam Jochelson, Sanitation Services**

Mr. Adam Jochelson informed the commission that Sanitation Services conducts recycling roundups once a quarter. The last one conducted was May 17<sup>th</sup> and the next one is scheduled for August 16<sup>th</sup>. He also informed the commission that Sanitation Services conduct Saturday events in North Dallas, South Dallas and City Hall. Various recycling contractors participate and citizen can bring electronics to recycle.

The biggest challenge is education to the citizens. Mr. Jochelson informed the commission that an add was placed on the Dallas Morning News. It was decided to not insert the information in the water bill insert because it was believed not to be a cost effective way.

Mrs. Sylvia Lagos asked how the home chemical facility funded. Mr. Adam Jochelson stated that it is owned and operated by the county. It serves citizens of various cities within the Household Hazardous Waste Network which the City of Dallas and sixteen other cities are participants of. It is voluntary for cities to participate. The service is free of charge to the citizens but a fee is associated to the city the citizen pertains to. For example, the company keeps track of the citizens and bills that particular city.

Mr. Jochelson's presentation was in collaboration with Ms. Laura Fiffick.

**Environmental Awards for Businesses in Dallas**

**Sheron C. Patterson, Chair**

Dr. Sheron C. Patterson informed the commission that she met with Laura Fiffick (OEQ), Dilip Shah, (Assistant Director – EHS) and Karen Rayzer (Director – EHS) in May. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss potential project for the commission. Dr. Patterson said that she was immediately excited about the possibility for the commission to work on an environmental project.

Ms. Fiffick stated that the Mayor asked that her department come up with an environmental award that he can give out every year to business that operate in Dallas that are environmentally friendly. She thinks that it is a great task for the commission to come up with the criteria, category and select the winners every year for the program. Office of Environmental Quality can provide information on other programs that are in the state that have an environmental awards program.

She also mentioned that the Environmental Protection Agency will have a conference in October here in Dallas. The head of the EPA will be in attendance and believes that will be a perfect time to give out the Mayor's first environmental award. The program can be geared towards businesses and citizens.

**Environmental Health Commission Minutes**  
**June 2, 2008**  
**Page 4**

Ms. Fiffick stated that former Mayor Laura Miller asked that the Office of Environmental Quality come up with possibility for clean air. A briefing was created on idling, light outages, toll road scanner for emissions, etc. Ms. Fiffick suggested that commission might want to consider helping prioritize possibilities the city may want to consider over the next year or two as far as clean air goes. The briefing can be brought to the commission to come up with more ideas.

**Commission Reports**

None

**Staff Reports**

None

**Public Comment**

None

**Adjournment**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.