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## Toronto on strike: No new dump sites, councillors demand

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Councillor cooperating under the umbrella of the Responsible Government Group held a press conference this afternoon demanding that Mayor David Miller empty 24 existing temporary dumps in parks and reuse them instead of opening more as the current ones fill up.

The conservative councillors said if it takes hiring replacement workers to haul the trash away, that's what should be done – even if it sparks a confrontation from striking workers.

“That will be a challenge that will have to be dealt with,” said Case Ootes (Toronto Danforth). “They have the right to protest peacefully.”

The city has repeatedly insisted the trash heaps will stay put until the end of the strike.

Mr. Ootes said he would like there to be no dumps in any parks, but acknowledged it would not be “practical” in the fifth week of a strike by 30,000 civic workers to remove all the temporary drop-off points.

“The imposition is already onerous enough,” he said. “There should be no further imposition.”

But the Mayor said no replacement workers are going to come in. He said there are huge logistical challenges to removing the waste from the sites.

"There are huge logistical challenges in trying to clean out the sites," he said. "There aren't the staff, you're talking about dozens of truck trailer loads that have to cross three separate picket lines. That would be extremely logistical[ly] difficult to do that as a voluntary measure."

Unpleasant as they are, Mr. Miller said the temporary refuse sites are preferable to the public health hazard caused by illegal dumping in the last civic strike in 2002.

"The contingency plan the city developed was developed in light of a strike in 2002 which, I think it's fair to say was vastly less successful in its management of garbage and waste. Obviously it's not perfect now. It can only be perfect if we have our public services back," he said. "But the system is working reasonably well because Torontonians have been extraordinarily helpful in keeping our city as clean as possible and in using the temporary sites."

David Shiner (Willowdale) said residents should have some of their user fees for garbage collection reimbursed after the strike, since homeowners have not had curbside pickup in five weeks.

Frances Nunziata (York South Weston) said the city should also seek injunctions to prevent residents who do use the dump sites from being “harassed” by pickets.

“Residents are being treated like criminals,” she said.