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Two-hour wait to dump trash

By DON PEAT, SUN MEDIA

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Day 2 of the Big Smoke's big city workers strike has more garbage piling up and residents steaming hotter than the trash they're trying to throw out.

Residents pulling up to the Bermondsey Rd. transfer station were being warned they'd have about a two-hour wait.

A pile of garbage sat in front of the station. Strikers said residents had left the trash overnight. The pile included recyclables, boxes of Christmas lights and bags of unopened shirts.

Picketing union members were letting one resident walk their trash to waiting garbage trucks every 15 minutes.

Retiree Domenico Colangelo brought his trash because he didn't want it to stink up his house. The two bags would have been picked up today by city workers had the strike not started early Monday.

He blamed Mayor David Miller for the strike and vowed not to vote for him if he seeks re-election next year.

One picketer, a member of Local 79 that wouldn't give her name, said while she understands many people are sacrificing in the current economic crisis and may not understand the civic unions' hardline when it comes to giving up certain benefits, she supports her union.

"There are things in the collective agreement that have been there for years," she said. "You don't want to lose them."