



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
Michelle Wu

July 23, 2025

John Vander Ark
President
Republic Services
320 Charger Street, A
Revere, Massachusetts
02151
jvanderark@republicservices.com

Dear President Vander Ark:

Your inability to collect trash from your customers due to the ongoing labor dispute at Republic Services is taking an unacceptable toll on Boston's residents, businesses, and neighborhoods.

The City of Boston has received complaints from various neighborhoods that overflowing dumpsters are severely threatening public health. City health and safety code enforcement personnel have also reported interactions with businesses throughout the city that are struggling—paying for trash pickup service under contracts with Republic Services that they are not receiving, while also being assessed fines for trash violations on a daily basis that are making already tight margins unsustainable.

As Mayor, it is my job to protect residents, businesses, and neighborhoods. Accordingly, I am taking two steps today.

First, the City expects that Republic Services will absorb any code enforcement fines assessed since July 7, 2025 to businesses throughout Boston that arose because Republic has been unable to provide trash pickup. As you are aware, the City of Boston gave a short reprieve on code enforcement fines from July 1 to July 6, but the City has been continuously issuing those fines since July 7.

Second, I have directed our code enforcement personnel to begin issuing fines directly to Republic Services—rather than individual businesses—for garbage left uncollected starting today.

Private trash collection serves a critical role in maintaining clean streets, public health, and a livable City, and we expect Republic to fulfill its obligations to customers immediately.

Thank you for your attention to this letter and for Republic's cooperation.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston