



Sharps Container Program

Pulaski County, Arkansas

\$154,000 for the city, but will also mean a startup cost of \$180,000 for the fleet of new trash cans.

"What we're trying to do is expand city services," said Johnson, who added that the labor-heavy Sanitation Department has been plagued by personnel problems and noted automated collection would alleviate many of those.

Also, from a liability standpoint, Cogdell said that although putting "sharps" — biohazardous objects like used hypodermic needles — in the trash is illegal without encasing them in a solid container, twice his sanitation workers have been stuck by them on regular garbage routes.

The ordinance was not read for the first time Monday, as would often be the custom, but simply introduced to the aldermen.

"What we want to do is give them [the aldermen] a period to think about it," Johnson said.

And already Monday night a few suggestions were forthcoming.

Ward 3's Chris Plante said he'd like to see a provision added so residents could buy a trash can outright from the city if they chose to do so, to which Cogdell replied he wouldn't object, but no city he'd sur-



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City cans for everyone could make the job doable for one man.

veyed offered such a service. The benefits of a city-owned can, he said, are that the Sanitation Department will come fix the cans — from detached wheels to broken lids — upon request.

"I just know some people in the community that have

purchased cans that are up to standard, so I would like to see that added," Plante said.

The ordinance will likely be read for the first time at the Council meeting on Oct. 3, and the measure will likely be put to vote at its meeting on Nov. 7.

City Workers injured by discarded needles.

Discarded needles thrown in trash or flushed down commodes are a constant threat to sanitation and wastewater workers.



Dumping of used needles in trash and recycling

**Beware! Disaster is only one
syringe away!**



**There are more than 3 ½ million sharps
disposed of in Pulaski County each year**

Dangers to the Public

- Needle sticks spread blood-borne pathogens
- Transmission of Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV
- Danger to health care workers, sanitation and waste water workers
- Danger to children and pets
- Could be subject to reuse and misuse

The Spread of Disease through sharps waste is preventable.

- This is the main reason that the solid waste district began the free sharps container program.
- Solid Waste Districts should always strive to initiate and support programs that promote the general health and welfare of the public.

Began Program in October of 2005

- Set up account with Sharps Compliance
- Obtained list of pharmacies in the county
- Contacted each pharmacy about participation
- Determined logo, printed displays, ordered sharps containers
- Delivered sign displays and sharps containers to participating pharmacies.

Setting up the Program

- \$800 (4) cases of qt. containers (480)
- \$700 Printing of display sheets
- \$600 Plastic display holders

- Total Set Up \$2100

The Program continues.....



- Pharmacies call when out of containers and a delivery service delivers the same day.
- Anyone living in Pulaski County has access to free containers.

- The **“free”** sharps container program now has a total of 58 pharmacies participating.
- A total of 4,800 sharps containers have been distributed through April of 2008.

A Participating Pharmacy



Proper Disposal

- Filled containers may be taken to any of our Household Chemical Collection Facilities. Haz-MERT, the contractor, picks up for proper disposal.

