

January 6, 2015

RE: Possible Electronic Waste Recycling Problems Emerging

Dear Mayor:

As you know, the New Jersey Electronic Waste Management Act prohibits the disposal of Consumer electronic products – computers, monitors, personal computers and televisions – in the garbage. Components of these products contain hazardous substances, including lead, nickel, mercury and cadmium.

The Act, which has been in full effect since January 1, 2011, was intended to have the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) promote a free and environmentally sound recycling program for these devices. The program was to be established by the manufacturers. Enforcement of the ban on disposal as municipal waste and on dumping were the only municipal responsibilities imposed by the Act. Local governments have, voluntarily produced and distributed lot of information to residents and small businesses regarding and encouraging e-cycling.

To date, a number of New Jersey counties have administered E-cycle programs, in conformance with the Act. We have been contacted by local officials concerning the suspension of such county programs.

The DEP website provides a list of sites where this electronic waste can be accepted. We have heard that the current list may not be up-to-date and may include retailers that no longer accept these items.

Both for the success of the program and to minimize enforcement costs, your residents need to have up-to-date, accurate information is provided to your residents.

Please review the list at NJDEP E-cycle at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/ewaste/consumers.html> to make certain that your residents have accurate information regarding their electronic waste recycling options.

If you uncover any potential problems, please e-mail a description to Jon Moran at jmoran@njslom.com. Please use the caption “E-cycling issue” on the “Subject” line and include your contact information, in case we need to follow up.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director