

From: [RolandDeschain8914](#)
To: [dence - City Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Do Not Extend The EHS Contract
Date: Monday, September 13, 2021 7:10:38 AM

It's shameful that Denver spends millions of dollars to steal the belongings of homeless people. Do not renew the city's contract with EHS!

From: [soaringbard](#)
To: [dencc - City Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] EHS
Date: Monday, September 13, 2021 8:53:13 AM

Dear Denver City Council, I would like to strenuously object to renewing the contract with EHS. I have watched them brutalize the unhoused repeatedly during the so called "sweeps". They do not have the training or understanding to engage with this fragile and traumatized population. Adding more trauma is unnecessary and cruel. If the city insists on endless sweeps instead of solutions to dealing with the unhoused, at least use a trauma informed group to assist in this barbaric practice.

Thank you,
Paula Bard

--

soaring.bard@gmail.com
paulabardphotography.com
303-898-5054

"No bird soars too high if he soars with his own wings."
William Blake

From: [Katie Blakey](#)
To: [Hinds, Chris - CC Member District 10 Denver City Council](#); [kniechatlarge](#); [Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large](#); [District 1 Comments](#); [Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member District 2 Denver City Council](#); [Torres, Jamie C. - CC Member District 3 Denver City Council](#); [Black, Kendra A. - CC Member District 4 Denver City Council](#); [City Council District 5](#); [Kashmann, Paul J. - CC Member District 6 Denver City Council](#); [Clark, Jolon M. - CC Member District 7 Denver City Council](#); [Herndon, Christopher J. - CC Member District 8 Denver City Coun](#); [District 9](#); [Gilmore, Stacie M. - CC XA1405 President Denver City Council](#)
Cc: [denc - City Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] EHS's weird storage schedule costs Denver up to \$43,000/year (RE:21-0982)
Date: Sunday, September 12, 2021 12:01:00 AM
Attachments: [2020.04.06-22 EHSI Invoice 20-1004-7.pdf](#)
[2019.12.30-2020.01.14 EHSI Invoice 20-1004 \(002\).pdf](#)

Hello Councilmembers,

I've been doing some digging on EHS's charging structure for storage services, and found some pretty concerning information: because of the way EHS schedules security officers -- with a 4 hour minimum charge -- the city is being charged up to **\$43,000** per year for "padded" security services (ie, hours where no security services were rendered).

Also, when their contract first started in October 2018, the storage facility hours were 12:00-4:00pm, Monday through Friday. Because there was just one officer working for four hours each day, the City didn't get hit with minimum charges. So, in October 2018, EHS's storage facility was open for 20 hours/week, and the City was charged for 20 hours of security/week. **In 2021 (and 2020), EHS's storage facility is only open for 16 hours per week, and because of minimums, the City is charged for 28 hours of security per week.**

This change in scheduling increased the amount they could charge the city for storage security each year by **\$28,288**.

It seems like EHS intentionally changed the storage hours from convenient/useful to almost completely prohibitive solely to scam the City out of tens of thousands of dollars per year.

I've put together [a quick deck](#) on this to walk through how I came to those figures, and [a recording of me talking through the deck](#) if you'd like to review it.

I've also attached a few EHS invoices to this email for your reference.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and please, please vote no on 21-0982.

(Since this contract isn't for regulated hazardous materials/waste (DDPHE was clear when they amended the contract in February 2020 that it covers *sanitary* waste), we can find another vendor. Let's use our existing hazmat contracts with Custom Environmental and EHS while DDPHE finds and onboards a new vendor.)

Thanks,

Katie Blakey
District 10

From: [Katie Blakey](#)
To: [Hinds, Chris - CC Member District 10 Denver City Council](#); [kniechatlarge](#); [Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large](#); [District 1 Comments](#); [Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member District 2 Denver City Council](#); [Torres, Jamie C. - CC Member District 3 Denver City Council](#); [Black, Kendra A. - CC Member District 4 Denver City Council](#); [City Council District 5](#); [Kashmann, Paul J. - CC Member District 6 Denver City Council](#); [Clark, Jolon M. - CC Member District 7 Denver City Council](#); [Herndon, Christopher J. - CC Member District 8 Denver City Council](#); [District 9](#); [Gilmore, Stacie M. - CC XA1405 President Denver City Council](#); [dencc - City Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] More documentation of EHS behavior
Date: Monday, September 13, 2021 1:18:56 AM

Hello Councilmembers,

Ahead of tomorrow's vote on the contract with EHS, I wanted to send you a few more pieces of documentation (highlighted; the files I sent you a few weeks ago are pasted below that for your reference). Thanks!

EHS employee mocking someone having mental health challenges

March 10, 2021 sometime between 5:00am and 6:00am

Location: 5th/6th & Acoma/Bannock

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qtmbz1owbtxki79/EHS%20Mocking.mov?dl=0>

Here, you can hear an encampment resident yelling/moaning, and an EHS worker yells back at him, mocking. You can hear the EHS employee using abusive language throughout. This type of behavior from EHS is common during fencing set up, when there are few City employees around to witness it.

EHS employee crushing plastic furniture with bobcat, nearly striking me (& with a dog + person much closer)

May 26, 2021 around 6:40am

Location: Grant near 9th

https://www.dropbox.com/s/yjjsx03ta6u9l5d/2021-05-26%2006.37.50.mov_1.mp4?dl=0

EHS frequently crushes large items into very small pieces, which creates flying debris and results in small bits of trash that are more difficult to clean up. Here, they crush a plastic red chair with a bobcat, and a piece nearly hits me. Much more concerning, though, is that there is a dog and a resident (and another EHS employee) much closer to the bobcat inside the fence.

DDPHE Board meeting where I mention an abusive remark from EHS

April 8, 2021 around 5:45pm

Location: Zoom meeting

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/wmziy64u5hp6h9q/April%202021%20Public%20Comment%20DDPHE%20Board%20Meeting.mp4?dl=0>

In this public comment, I mention that an unhoused woman had been called a demeaning name by a contractor (EHS) during a displacement (0:15). Will Fenton of DDPHE is in attendance (top left screen), and hears my comment. He did not follow up with me about this after the meeting.

(Note: I may have spoken about EHS at another DDPHE Board meeting, but the DDPHE admin has not responded to my request for the meeting recordings.)

Previously shared documentation:

Debris left by EHS after encampment eviction (Broadway & 2nd)

May 20, 2021 around 9:30am

Location: 2nd between Broadway and Lincoln

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/df2fio6d3h1z09w/AAAZuIvhEcR29E8-MWzlc7sca?dl=0>

I stayed an hour after the last City employee (Evan Dreyer) left the premises because, after finding one intact sharp, I was afraid there were more, and the area was completely open to pedestrians. I found eight intact needles and two razor blades, some of which were in the grass -- meaning that even if a street sweeper had come through, it would not have mitigated the issue. I submitted a complaint to 311, and have attached a screenshot of the case email.

2,000 pounds of trash left by EHS after an encampment eviction (Arkins)

November 30, 2020

Location: Arkins Court

<https://www.facebook.com/can.tafoya/videos/10108458612649343>

Seven days after the 11/30 displacement at Arkins Court, Headwaters Protectors and community volunteers collected over 2,000 pounds of trash and dozens of used sharps that EHS and the city left behind.

EHS and City workers cut into a person's tent while it's occupied

February 17, 2021 around 8:50am

Location: Pearl between 13th and 14th

Here, you can see four people cutting into a person's tent while it's occupied. (Two people are definitely EHS workers, and one is definitely from DOTI. It's unknown whether the person in bright blue works for DOTI, as EHS workers will sometimes wear DOTI vests.) Around 3:05, an EHS worker enters the tent, and you can see the group begin to realize the resident is still in there.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/sialjds80sy297x/13th%20and%20Pearl%200006%281%29.mp4?dl=0>

In this second video, you can see the resident sitting in his tent after EHS and City workers have cut it apart.
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/hts03aq34i5wlr/13th%20and%20Pearl%20007%281%29.mp4?dl=0>

EHS employee closing a gate on a bystander:

June 30, 2021 around 9:45am

Location: Alley between Champa and Stout and Broadway and 22nd

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/6ay40ioo49t3z6l/2021-06-30%2009.47.24.mov?dl=0>

This is just after the EHS employee screamed at the driver and banged on her car's hood. In the second part of the video, an HOT team officer has to come over to smooth things over, and you'll hear the person describe what happened. Earlier that morning, I witnessed the same EHS employee get in a verbal altercation with a different housed resident.

EHS employee talking about getting "shit faced" (around 0:00 mark)

May 25, 2021 around 4:25am

Location: Underpass on Broadway between Blake and 28th

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ze5xywz887x1gmy/2021-05-25%2004.25.58.mov?dl=0>

(As you can hear, they're using coarse language loudly throughout as they walk through the encampment, directly by residents.)

EHS employee dropping fence near someone sitting on the ground (around 0:24 mark)

May 26, 2021 around 4:45am

Location: 11th between Grant and Logan

https://www.dropbox.com/s/4n5dxdl6qjkqwnj/2021-05-26%2004.37.52_1.mp4?dl=0

It's a bit hard to see, but keep your eye on the two people carrying a fence panel in the background. The person with the orange shirt and yellow vest is an EHS employee. He drops the panel into place next to someone sitting on the ground, then says something snarky to them.

Recording & Deck: How EHS's gaming of storage security minimum charges costs the City tens of thousands of dollars per year

From: [astefanski](#)
To: [CdeBaca, Candi - CC Member District 9 Denver City Council; District 9; Kniech, Robin L. - CC Member At Large Denver City Council; Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large; kniechatlarge; dencc - City Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please vote NO on resolution 21-0982 - No more contracts with EHS
Date: Sunday, September 12, 2021 7:37:16 PM

Dear Councilwomen CdeBaca, Kniech and Ortega,

I am writing to ask you to vote NO on resolution [21-0982](#) and cease renewal of contracts with Environmental Hazmat Services, Inc (EHS). Denver may need services such as those described in this contract, however EHS is not a suitable vendor for a number of reasons.

First, EHS has a documented history of engaging in unprofessional and abusive behavior toward the homeless residents in the encampments. EHS staff has also interacted unprofessionally toward other community members and advocates working with displaced individuals. EHS staff have been recorded and documented stealing, mocking, using abusive language, and even engaging in verbal altercations. EHS staff are public facing contractors who carry out their work on our literal streets. It is unacceptable to continue a contract with a company whose employees have engaged in this behavior.

In addition to abhorrent practices during enforcement actions, EHS also falls short at fulfilling its contractual responsibility to provide displaced residents with storage. It is heartbreaking that the storage provided by this city-contractor is in bins typically used for recycling or solid waste. I urge the council to consider that continuing this contract with EHS will likely open the city to additional costly litigation.

Please take a few minutes to watch this video that highlights the shortcomings of EHS, including related to storage: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_TYomF6wltw Denver's Department of Public Health and Environment (DDPHE) has known about EHS's poor performance and unprofessional behavior for months, however the problems persist. We understand that finding another vendor to fulfill this contract may be challenging, yet we urge you to do that difficult work now. **Please vote to END contracts with EHS.**

Sincerely, Adrienne Stefanski PhD Denver Resident (Council District 9)

From: [astefanski](#)
To: [Sotelo, Melissa N. - CC YA2246 City Council Aide Senior](#); [Elenz, Magen M. - CC Senior City Council Aide](#); [Gilmore, Stacie M. - CC XA1405 President Denver City Council](#); [dencc - City Council](#)
Cc: [District 9; CdeBaca, Candi - CC Member District 9 Denver City Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] regarding CW Gilmore and 21-0982 vote - ABSTAIN due to conflict of interest
Date: Monday, September 13, 2021 6:44:49 AM

Dear Council President Gilmore and City Council,

During the last safety committee meeting on 9/1/2021, we heard a statement from Scott Gilmore (Parks and Recreation) that the motivation for the EHS contract was, at least in part, a direct result of his actions and decisions in his position at Denver Parks and Recreation.

This contract is extremely controversial in our community. And deserves to be handled in the most ethical way possible. Due to the relationship of Scott Gilmore and Council President Gilmore, Council President Gilmore should ABSTAIN from voting during 21-0982.

I am writing to urge Council President Gilmore to do the right thing, and to ABSTAIN from voting on 21-0982. Her vote on this matter represents a substantial conflict of interest.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Stefanski PhD
Denver Resident - District 9

From: [Katie Blakey](#)
To: [Kashmann, Paul J. - CC Member District 6 Denver City Council](#); [Torres, Jamie C. - CC Member District 3 Denver City Council](#); [District 1 Comments](#); [kniechatlarge](#); [Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member District 2 Denver City Council](#); [City Council District 5](#)
Cc: [dencc - City Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Today: Please vote no on 21-0982
Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 8:21:46 AM

Hello Councilmembers,

I'm writing to ask that you please vote no on 21-0982 during this morning's Safety Committee meeting and end this contract with EHS.

I haven't received a response from any Safety Committee members to my previous emails; I'm going to assume that you've read them so I don't need to send you another lengthy, detailed message. To keep it brief, please vote no on this contract extension because:

1. EHS has not adequately performed their obligations under this contract, resulting in the loss of property for unhoused community members and posing significant health and environmental hazards to both housed and unhoused Denver residents.

2. EHS frequently displays abusive and unprofessional behavior, inflicting significant harm on already traumatized, vulnerable community members and reflecting poorly on the City of Denver.

3. EHS's billing and scheduling practices intentionally pad costs of security at the storage facility.

They are not an appropriate partner for the City -- particularly for the population that this contract serves. Since this contract is for handling sanitary -- not hazardous -- wastes, as reiterated by DDPHE during the February 2020 Safety Committee meeting where this contract was amended, it should not be difficult to find a different vendor to provide these services.

Thank you,

Katie Blakey
District 10

From: [Maddy Hughes](#)
To: [dencc - City Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote No on Contract Renewal with EHS
Date: Thursday, September 9, 2021 5:31:27 PM

Hello,

I am writing to urge all of you to please vote no to the renewal of the city's contract with EHS. As someone who has attended many sweeps and seen with my own eyes the inhumane way that EHS workers and DPD engage with the homeless population, I believe it would be a senseless, cruel, and counterproductive move to renew this contract.

I attended the presentation of the survey by DHOL a few weeks ago to City Council and although I already knew well that the sweeps do not help anyone in this city, that presentation made even more clear how detrimental these sweeps are. The Safe Outdoor Spaces are an excellent solution. Continued trashing of human beings' belongings multiple times a week are not. If you know any people experiencing homelessness in this city, you know how traumatic the sweeps are. People lose essential belongings daily including their IDs, cell phones, wallets, few remaining photos of family and friends, their bikes, blankets, tents which are their homes, and more. They often have no way of preventing this, as the city is not following the guidelines set by the settlement of the Lyall v. Denver case (there is not appropriate signage giving notice for the sweeps, and often they do not give the required week-advance notice at all).

The sweeps leave behind trash anyway, they should not even be referred to as "cleanups." Please watch this video for more information on what is really happening due to this contract with our tax dollars, it's brief and very informative. And please, you have a moral duty to vote NO. Thank you.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_TYomF6wItw

-Maddy

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