



## Arlington residents want vote on trash

Signature drive aims to remove out-of-state hauler in Nov. 4 election

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**BY MARTIN ROZENMAN**

*THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH*

Upper Arlington residents have filed a petition to overturn the City Council's decision to privatize trash services.

The petition was turned in to the city finance director yesterday afternoon.

Organizers need 1,350 valid signatures from city voters to get their issue on the November ballot. Michael Schadek, spokesman for residents opposed to the private hauler, said they've turned in 2,030 signatures.

The petitions will be sent to the Franklin County Board of Elections and must be certified 75 days before the Nov. 4 election.

The residents want city officials to re-establish the city's Solid Waste Division, which was disbanded in April, and get rid of the private hauler, Inland Service Corp., based in Texas.

Residents say the old system provided excellent service and that Inland's work is substandard.

City officials, however, said the service by Inland is now about equal to what the city provided.

Upper Arlington officials say it would be illegal for the suburb to break the contract with Inland, which runs through March 2013.

Schadek said Inland could offer a no-fault release from the contract. He thinks council members would "follow the will of residents" if the November vote is to get rid of Inland. If not, Schadek said, the group would pursue a recall of council members.

Re-establishing the Solid Waste Division would be costly, city officials said.

City Manager Virginia Barney said the trash-collection system is paid for by taxpayers, so they would have to generate additional money to cover those costs.

"This is a big issue," Schadek said. "I can count on both hands the number of people who refused to sign the petitions."

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