

# Charles Village Community Benefits District Announcement



The Benefits District has begun a fund raising campaign to raise \$60,000 by July 1, 2011 to purchase 100 new trash cans. We have already submitted several grant applications to area foundations; now we are also asking for your help! Please help us raise these funds by making a tax deductible contribution to the Charles Village Community Foundation at 2434 St Paul Street, Baltimore MD 21218. Print the words "Trash Cans" in the memo line. (As of March 1, we have raised \$23,000 with resident and association contributions, and grants from the Abell Foundation and several other foundations. We only need \$33,000 more!)



**CHARLES VILLAGE COMMUNITY BENEFITS DISTRICT**

*“Keeping Charles Village Safe and Clean”*

**PROPOSED FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN FOR NEW TRASH CANS  
December 2010 – June 2011**

**1. GOAL:**

To raise \$60,000 by July 1, 2011 to purchase 100 new trash cans that will replace the old ones throughout the Charles Village Community Benefits District.

**2. DESCRIPTION OF TRASH CANS:**

If the proposed fund raising campaign is successful, we will purchase 100 Witt Stadium Series cans shown in the attached information sheets from United Sanitary. These are 55 gallon cans; they will have a coated base and closed dome top, will be painted evergreen, embossed with the Benefits District logo, and will have a “Message Center” for advertisements or announcements. The cost is \$550 - \$600 each, or \$60,000 for 100, including shipping.

**3. BACKGROUND:**

The Benefits District started its trash basket initiative in late 2007. Prior to that time, the District had only 8 trash baskets, including four small ones attached to telephone posts. We removed the pole baskets and gradually increased the number of street corner baskets to 85 distributed roughly evenly around the District’s 100 square blocks. Most were given to us by the City. We have 20 of the old City open concrete cans with a vinyl insert. The remaining 65 are open wire mesh. This initiative has proven very successful. Serviced daily, including weekends, we regularly remove over 2,500 – 3,000 bags of trash from our cans every month.

**4. STATEMENT OF NEED:**

Although the trash can initiative has been successful, there are many issues related to features of the types of cans we are using:

- A. **RATS:** Since all of our cans are open and many are wire meshed, the odor from food placed in them attracts rats. Although we service the cans frequently (some are serviced 2 or 3 times a day), rats have been observed around our cans, particularly late at night.
- B. **WATER COLLECTION:** Since all of our cans are open, rain water collects in them making it difficult for staff to service them. This is especially true of the concrete cans which have no drainage holes and weigh about 300 pounds.

- C. HOUSEHOLD TRASH: Since our cans all have large openings at the tops, residents frequently put household trash bags in them making it difficult for staff to service them.
- D. RELOCATION AND THEFT: Since the wire mesh cans only weigh about 25-30 pounds, they are easy to lift and move. Consequently, during the 2.5 years of our trash can initiative, about 20 – 25 have been relocated or stolen. We have recovered many cans from alleys or streets several blocks from their usual location. Others were further removed. One was found on a street corner in Hillen on Perring Parkway; another was recovered from the Loyola University campus. Still others have never been found and had to be replaced.
- E. LACK OF UNIFORMITY & BRANDING: Although we have tried to make our trash cans attractive by painting the concrete ones with flowers and the wire mesh ones forest green, they lack uniformity. Most important, they lack branding of the Benefits District (and community). It has not been possible to brand the concrete ones with our logo and the plastic logo signs we attached to the wire mesh cans have either fallen off, or are broken or chipped, and are time consuming and costly to replace.

## **5. ADVANTAGES OF THE PROPOSED NEW TRASH CANS:**

When we searched the market for new cans, we had in mind finding cans that would either eliminate or at least alleviate the problems we have with our current trash cans. We think the Witt Stadium Series cans described in #2 above meets this requirement:

- A. CLOSED TOP: The Witt Stadium Series trash cans have a domed top with a small “flap-covered” opening. This design should alleviate the issue of attracting rats; at the same time, it will eliminate the water collection issue, and eliminate household trash being put inside. Residents may still leave their household trash piled next to the cans but staff thinks this is preferable to having it piled inside them.
- B. WEIGHT: The Witt Stadium Series trash cans weigh 86 pounds. This weight should discourage residents from moving them around or stealing them. At the same time, this weight is reasonable enough that staff can easily move them if needed.
- C. UNIFORMITY AND BRANDING: The Witt Stadium Series trash cans will all be the same size, shape and color and will all be embossed with the Benefits District logo. Having 100 uniform trash cans throughout the District will help to brand the Benefits District (and the neighborhood) for residents and visitors.

## **6. BASIC CAMPAIGN STRATEGY:**

We propose to solicit contributions by submitting proposals to foundations, sending letters to businesses, churches and nonprofits, speaking to residents at community meetings, and advertising the campaign in our newsletter and in the *Villager*.