



## COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE TEAMS OF FLAGSTAFF

- ☎ 928-890-7230
- ✉ [info@cats-of-flagstaff.org](mailto:info@cats-of-flagstaff.org)
- ✉ P.O. Box 2041 Flagstaff, AZ 86003
- 📍 555 Blackbird Roost, Unit 2  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
- EIN Number 87-1996568
- Arizona QCO #22548

Dear Members of the Flagstaff City Council,

Community Assistance Teams of Flagstaff (CATs) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and an Arizona Qualified Charitable Organization (QCO). Our federal EIN is 87-1996568, and our Arizona QCO number is 2254. CAT's mission is to transform lives by empowering individuals with the tools they need to survive and thrive through community. We use the Diné concept of k'é to express our belief that we are all related and share responsibility for one another's well-being. Our team works to engage unsheltered and disenfranchised community members where they are, offering support without judgment.

Transportation is one of the greatest barriers to stability for individuals experiencing homelessness or hardship. Our **CATs on Wheels** program addresses this challenge by converting donated bicycles and parts into reliable, sustainable transportation for unsheltered neighbors and other community members in need.

Currently, CATs on Wheels receives most of its bicycles through public donations. Due to increasing demand, we are exploring additional sources of used bicycles. CATs has recently begun working with the Flagstaff Police Department to acquire bicycles that are no longer needed as evidence and would otherwise be sent for disposal at the Cinder Lakes Landfill.

Another potential source is bicycles brought to the landfill for disposal by members of the public. Recovering these bicycles would allow them to be reused for community benefit while also reducing landfill waste.

After speaking with landfill personnel, including Richard Hearne, Public Works Manager, we confirmed that once items pass the designated gate or weigh station, they are legally City property and must be disposed of accordingly. Because of this policy, we were encouraged to seek City Council approval to revise the current ordinance to allow bicycles to be placed in a designated area within the metal recycling section of the landfill. These bicycles could then be retrieved by CATs rather than discarded.

## Proposed Procedure

### 1. Designated Set-Aside Area

A designated space would be established within the metal recycling area where bicycles could be placed after passing through the weigh station. This would allow bicycles to be separated from other metal materials and made available for recovery by CATs.

### 2. Communication Process

Landfill staff would coordinate with John Buckley of CATs to establish a schedule for retrieving bicycles placed in the designated area.

### 3. Timely Retrieval

CAT's representatives will retrieve the bicycles within the agreed timeframe to avoid disrupting landfill operations.

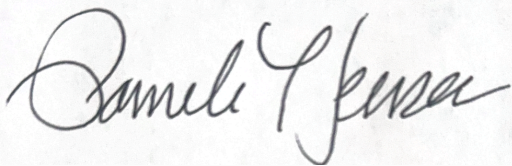
### 4. Operational Compliance

All pickups would occur during approved hours and in accordance with landfill safety and operational policies.

We understand that implementing this proposal may require City Council approval to revise the current ordinance governing material passing through the landfill weigh station. We would greatly appreciate guidance on the appropriate steps to proceed with this request.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to supporting programs that strengthen our community.

Sincerely,



Pam Jensen  
Executive Director  
Community Assistance Teams of Flagstaff