



If I Were Mayor

People who live in my neighborhood put their garbage out several days before it is picked up. Sometimes the garbage cans start to smell bad. Sometimes stray dogs get into them and make a mess. Plus, it always looks bad to see garbage cans sitting around.

I asked a girl named Mary in the eighth grade about it and she said that she didn't care if there were garbage cans on the street. She thought people who complained about that sort of thing should find better things to do. I also talked to my Aunt Beatrice. She agreed that the cans were a problem and said that her neighbors' cans sometimes rolled into her driveway when they were empty, and one time she almost hit one with her car. She said people should be fined even if the cans are empty. Finally, I talked to my friend Lakeisha. I told her about my aunt's idea of fining people, and she said that it didn't seem right to charge people money for putting garbage cans out. What if they needed help to do it and they could only get help on certain days? She said it would be better if the town offered to take complaints from people upset about the cans and then check in with the people leaving the cans out.

I thought about what all those people said about the garbage cans and I decided that my friend Lakeisha was right – it wasn't fair to charge people money for such a little thing. But I still want to do something that solves the problem, so I came up with my own solution: The town should do a social media campaign to remind people to not leave their full or empty cans out too long. We could use pictures of full cans tipped over by dogs and pictures of cans rolling across driveways. We could also let people know that they should offer to help people who might have trouble moving the cans themselves. If there's money for it, we could even make a flyer and mail it to everybody in town.

I don't know if this will solve the whole problem, but it might help, and it won't cost very much to try.