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**LOCAL CONTRACTING COMPANY HELPS COMMUNITY COMBAT CIGARETTE WASTE**

*Swift & Staley Inc. and the City of Paducah Recycle Traditionally-Unrecyclable Cigarettes with TerraCycle's Cigarette Waste Recycling Program*

**PADUCAH, Kentucky. (January 28, 2020)** - Every year, billions of cigarette butts end up in dumpsters and landfills, or get tossed on shorelines, parks, and sidewalks as litter. Contracting company Swift & Staley Inc. has teamed up with international recycling leader TerraCycle® to make it convenient for the citizens of Paducah to recycle their cigarette waste.

“This program helps maintain our city’s beauty by reducing the litter on our streets and sidewalks caused by cigarette butts,” says Swift & Staley Inc. Vice President, Tammy Courtney. “By recycling this waste we are able to take something unsightly off our streets, improve the environment, and recycle the waste to make viable products.”

In partnership with the City of Paducah and the Facility Maintenance crew, cigarette recycling receptacles were installed at 6 public locations around town including City Hall, near the Market House Theater downtown, the City IT Building, the City Recreation Center, the Robert Cherry Civic Center, and the Parks Building. These sturdy receptacles are designed for easy installation and cigarette waste collection in high-traffic areas.

Swift & Staley Inc. will maintain the collection boxes and ship cigarettes to TerraCycle for recycling. When processed, the paper and tobacco will be separated from the cigarette filters and composted. The filters then will undergo pelletization and be molded into a variety of new plastic products such as ashtrays, shipping pallets, or plastic lumber.

The initiative was spearheaded by two employees, Christa Armstrong and Mike Golightly, co-chairs of the Swift & Staley Green Team, who began collecting and recycling cigarettes at the Swift & Staley Paducah project site. Their efforts to address the nation’s most commonly littered item soon expanded to a pilot citywide collection program with the support of James Arndt, City Manager and Rick Murphy, City Engineer and Public Works Director. If this pilot program is successful, SSI and the City of Paducah may expand their collaborative efforts to help raise community awareness about the local recycling efforts.

“Whenever you can take a waste product and repurpose it for good, that is an amazing thing not just for our community but our world,” says Arndt.

TerraCycle has collected hundreds of millions of cigarette butts globally. Additionally, through its various recycling programs, it has engaged over 100 million people across 21 countries to collect and recycle more than four billion pieces of waste that were otherwise non-recyclable.

### **About Swift & Staley**

Swift & Staley is a 100 percent employee owned, small business government contracting company headquartered in Paducah, Kentucky. SSI specializes in government design–build–maintain construction services and takes pride in completing projects in a timely manner with cost saving practices. Swift & Staley also excels in Facility Support Services and Construction, Safeguards & Security/Automated Access Control Services, Administrative Support and Records Management and Document Control Services. More information regarding Swift & Staley can be found by visiting their website, <https://swiftstaley.com/>.

### **About The City of Paducah**

Each and every day the City of Paducah challenges itself to live up to its mission statement: To Be the Best City in the World. Our Vision is a city where people strive to reach their full potential through life-long learning, creativity, culture, and compassion for one another.

### **About TerraCycle**

TerraCycle is an innovative waste management company with a mission to eliminate the idea of waste. Operating nationally across 21 countries, TerraCycle partners with leading consumer product companies, retailers and cities to recycle products and packages, from dirty diapers to cigarette butts, that would otherwise end up being landfilled or incinerated. In addition, TerraCycle works with leading consumer product companies to integrate hard to recycle waste streams, such as ocean plastic, into their products and packaging. Its new division, Loop, is the first shopping system that gives consumers a way to shop for their favorite brands in durable, reusable packaging. TerraCycle also sells Zero Waste Boxes that are purchased by end users to recycle items in offices, homes, factories and public facilities. TerraCycle has won over 200 awards for sustainability and has donated over \$44 million to schools and charities since its founding more than 15 years ago and was named #10 in Fortune magazine's list of 52 companies Changing the World. To learn more about TerraCycle or get involved in its recycling programs, please visit [www.terracycle.com](http://www.terracycle.com).

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