Advocacy update: BOMA Dallas helps shape recycling policy

Active involvement in the legislative process at all levels — local, state and federal — ensures the goals and objectives of the commercial real estate industry are represented. But advocacy is more than just an annual trip to Austin or Washington, D.C., to meet with legislators. It is about building relationships and working together to educate decision-makers. This task is constantly on the BOMA Dallas radar.

City of Dallas Solid Waste Plan
In March the city of Dallas approved a solid waste plan. This plan promotes voluntary recycling until 2019. Only then, if voluntary recycling isn’t at an acceptable level, will the city consider establishing a mandatory recycling program. But work on this project started well before March. While the plan was still in its proposal stage, city officials contacted BOMA Dallas for input. And the organization put its advocacy skills to work.

Mike Pugh, Bill Moebius and Teresa Foster met with city officials and recycling advocates to discuss the specifics of the proposal. They were also able to explain how our buildings are ahead of the curve in terms of recycling.

Promoting our Industry
Pugh and Foster then arranged a tour of three commercial properties for Dallas city officials. The tour, held March 7, included Assistant City Manager Forest Turner, Sanitation Services Director Kelly High and Assistant Sanitation Services Director Martin Riojas. Zac Trahan with the Texas Campaign for the Environment also joined the group.

Officials toured recycling facilities at 2100 McKinney, Rosewood Court and Comerica Bank Tower. From trash cans in individual offices to the loading docks — they saw it all. Trash might not be the most exciting topic, but it was an excellent opportunity to educate city leaders and industry advocates on how commercial buildings operate. And BOMA Dallas has the best classroom: our buildings!

Many thanks to the following BOMA Dallas members for providing the tours:

- Mike Pugh, 2100 McKinney
- Pam Logan and Rick Matvey, Rosewood Court
- Adam Bernhardt and Jason Boyd, Comerica Bank Tower

This involved a lot of work behind the scenes, but the return was significant: a recycling program that is fair for the commercial real estate industry and increased awareness for BOMA Dallas.