

# AGENDA BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

**COMMITTEE:** Public Works and Services

**LEGISLATION ITEM:** 574-18

**AGENDA DATE:** June 13, 2017

**DEPARTMENT:** Public Works

**Prepared By:** Mark Yehlen

**Reviewed By:** James Palenick

**SUBJECT:** Request to approve September 18, 2017 as the start date of semi-automated solid waste collection and proposed bulky waste handling system

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** Resolution 0292-16 directed the Department of Public Works (DPW) to change its system of collecting solid waste from the existing fully manual system to a semi-automated system using 95-gallon carts in 2017. To deal with bulky wastes that won't fit into a 95-gallon cart, we are proposing: a "call-in" service to schedule pick-ups of large items at individual customers addresses, with two "no-charge" pick-ups per year; to operate the Pearl Street Yard as a "free" bulky and yard waste drop off center open from Tuesday through Saturday, 52 weeks a year; and to open two satellite "free" drop off centers at 1936 Edgewood Avenue and 1955 Grove Avenue, each operating two days per week from April through November. Based on the anticipated delivery of four new rear-loading refuse trucks with "cart tippers" in August 2017, the progress in retro-fitting 14 existing rear-loaders with cart tippers, and the requirement to schedule the delivery of approximately 27,000 95-gallon solid waste carts, DPW recommends implementing the semi-automated and associated bulky waste handling systems on September 18, 2017.

**BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:** During our proposed 2016 budget presentation, DPW staff recommended automating our solid waste and recycling collection systems to the maximum extent possible to improve worker safety and productivity, starting in 2017. Following extensive data collection, detailed alternatives analysis, and a broad public engagement effort, the Common Council chose to implement a semi-automated solid waste collection system via Resolution 0292-16 in August 2016.

The Purchasing Agent ordered four rear-loading solid waste trucks with cart tippers in October 2016 with delivery anticipated in August 2017. Our 2017 Capital Budget includes funds for 14 retro-fit cart tippers which are in the process of being installed on existing solid waste trucks, and 27,000 95-gallon solid waste carts which are on order and require a delivery schedule to be established.

Bill Folstrom, his supervisors and staff, Tom Eeg and I have studied the bulky and yard waste handling systems of numerous other municipalities, met with multiple solid waste

professionals, analyzed our customer base and considered public input. We are proposing a system which meets the goals that we (DPW) established for this program:

1. Improve worker safety by eliminating their exposure to hazards without creating excessive burdens on city residents.
2. Increase worker and equipment productivity.
3. Improve solid waste containment.
4. Provide one adequately-sized solid waste cart to each residence and business served, at no direct cost to the customer, and allowing customers to buy additional carts.
5. Provide city residents adequate bulky waste and yard waste collection and disposal options to prevent increased incidents of illegal dumping.

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:** Implementing these changes will reduce the City's Workers Compensation (Org 11201 Object 51500) expenditures by an estimated average of \$100,000 per year.

These changes will allow four workers to be reassigned from the Solid Waste Division (40006) to the Street Maintenance Division (40010). This reassignment will be budget neutral but will result in more street maintenance being accomplished annually.

**OPTIONS/ALTERNATIVES:** For bulky waste handling, we have considered: regularly scheduled bulky waste pick-ups along established collection routes; semi-annual or quarterly "Clean Up Weeks"; a "call-in" system of scheduling individual pick-ups; and operating "drop-off" sites.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Start semi-automated collection of solid waste on Monday, September 18, 2017. Concurrently implement a bulky waste handling system as detailed in the attached "Proposed Bulky Waste Handling System" document. Undertake an extensive public notification/outreach program to inform our customers of the scheduled changes to our solid waste collection system. Allow customers to purchase additional 95-gallon carts for \$55.00 each. Allow customers to exchange the initially issued 95-gallon cart for a smaller cart, at no charge, after a six month trial period.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Proposed Bulky Waste Handling System dated 6/13/2017