

# AGENDA BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

**COMMITTEE:** Public Works and Services

**LEGISLATION ITEM:** 587-17

**AGENDA DATE:** June 27, 2017

**DEPARTMENT:** Public Works

**Prepared By:** Mark Yehlen

**Reviewed By:** James Palenick

**SUBJECT:** Request to approve proposed bulky and yard waste handling systems

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** As a critical step in transforming the City's waste management processes to a more sustainable, safer and more efficient system, Resolution 0292-16 directed the Department of Public Works (DPW) to change its existing fully manual solid waste collection system to a semi-automated system, and Resolution 0211-17 established September 18, 2017 as the date this system will be implemented. To deal with wastes that won't fit into a single standard 95-gallon cart, we are proposing: customers be allowed to buy additional 95-gallon carts for \$55 each; a "call-in" service to schedule pick-ups of large items at individual residential customers addresses, with two "no-charge" pick-ups per year; to operate the Pearl Street Facility 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. To deal with "green" wastes that have been banned from landfill disposal since 1993, we are proposing that our customers be given five options for disposing of these wastes: free drop off of all "green" wastes at the Pearl Street and satellite drop-off facilities; a "call-in" pick-up service of properly prepared branches and brush to be "charged" to the property owner as a bulky waste pick-up; a May through September subscription yard waste collection service requiring customers to sign up for the service, purchase disposal carts and pay a seasonal collection fee; a city promoted backyard composting program including the adoption of appropriate municipal code regulations; and collection of all "green" wastes during the spring and fall leaf collections.

**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. The Common Council chose to implement a semi-automated solid waste collection system via Resolution 0292-16, and Resolution 0211-17 established September 18, 2017 as the start date for this system.

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 and fully comply with State Regulations.

**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.

The cost to the Recycling Special Revenue Fund (Org 22140) to implement a May through September subscription yard waste collection service is impossible to predict without knowing how many customers will choose to participate in the program. The proposed one-time charge of \$50 per 65-gallon cart and \$10 per scheduled collection are intended to be budget neutral.

These changes will allow three to four workers to be reassigned from the Solid Waste Division (Org 14006) to the Street Maintenance Division (Org 14010). 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.

For green waste handling we have considered: allowing disposal of all "green" wastes during spring and fall leaf collections; operating "drop-off" sites; a "pay as you throw" green waste collection system; a "call-in" system of scheduling individual pick-ups; a subscription yard waste collection system; and promotion of backyard composting.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Implement a bulky waste handling system concurrent with the start of the semi-automated solid waste collections, as detailed in the attached "Proposed Bulky Waste Handling System" document. 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.

Implement the green waste handling system detailed in the attached "Proposed Green Waste Handling System" document, starting in May 2018.

Undertake an extensive public notification/outreach program to inform our customers of the scheduled changes to our solid waste collection system.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Proposed Bulky Waste Handling System dated 6/22/2017  
Proposed "Green" Waste Handling System dated 6/22/2017