



# Solid Waste Program Considerations

Conceptual Report  
December 12, 2022

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# Current Situation

- The City does not require trash service
- 6 private trash haulers operating in the City (appropriately licensed)
  - No established standard collection days
- Recycling option not required of trash haulers
- Yard waste option not required of trash haulers
- Bulky item pick-up required of trash haulers (once per year)
- Price for “basic” service ranges from \$20-\$35 per month/household

# Peer Communities

Community	Trash Service Provided	Price per Residence	Bulky Item Pick Up in Contract	Curbside Recycling in Contract	Curbside Yardwaste in Contract	HHW	Service Provider
Blue Springs	No					Yes	
Excelsior Springs	Yes	\$19.27	No	Yes	No	Yes	Republic
Grandview	No					Yes	
Harrisonville	Yes	\$14.80	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	MWS
Kansas City	Yes	Earnings Tax	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Municipal Gov.
Kearney	Yes	\$12.77	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Republic
Lee's Summit	No					Yes	
Liberty	Yes	\$16.99	No	Yes	No	Yes	Republic
Mission	Yes	\$10.09	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Deffenbaugh
North Kansas City	Yes	City Pays	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Jims Disposal
Olathe	Yes	\$19.64	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Municipal Gov.
Peculiar	Yes	\$14.50	Yes	Yes	No	No	WCA
Platte City	Yes	\$14.75	No	Yes	No	Yes	Municipal Gov.
Pleasant Hill	Yes	\$14.50	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	MWS
Prairie Village	Yes	\$14.80	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Deffenbaugh
Raytown	No					No	
Sugar Creek	Yes	\$17.50	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Republic
UG WY/KCK	Yes	\$13.75	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Deffenbaugh

# Issues

- Currently challenges the City's strategic objectives
  - Improve visual appearance
  - Improve customer service
  - Improve public infrastructure and facilities
  - Control long-term costs

# Council Priorities

- Objective: Improve visual appearance
  - Proper trash disposal
  - Code Compliance #1 violation = trash

Trash Violations			
Year	% Trash Violations	Trash Violations	Total Number of Code Violations
FY 2020	31.01%	2015	6498
FY 2021	32.07%	1797	5604
FY 2022	35.42%	2783	7858
FY 2023	36.16%	1383	3825

# Council Priorities

- Illegal dumping impact
  - Negative impact on perception of health and public safety
  - Over \$300k spent on trash clean-up in FY21-22
    - Community Development
    - Municipal Services
      - Streets Division
      - Stormwater Division





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# Council Priorities

- Objective: Improve customer service
  - Complaints to business licensing about haulers
  - Minimum requirements to obtain business license
  - Currently contract is between resident and hauler
  - City contracting on behalf of residents would provide standardization, consistency, and enhanced coordination between haulers and customers



# Council Priorities

- Objectives: Improve public infrastructure and facilities  
Control long-term costs
  - Increased street degradation
  - Too much heavy vehicle traffic on residential streets
  - Results in more street maintenance needed (patching, sealing, overlay)
  - Must reduce the frequency of trash trucks in neighborhoods

# Protecting Infrastructure

- Equivalent Single Axle Load (ESAL)
  - 1 single garbage truck trip is equal to 1,400 car trips
- High frequency of trash trucks in neighborhoods
- Different haulers, different days
- Equivalent to 4,200 to 5,600 car trips on some residential roads each week.
- University of Michigan research study
  - Increase in road damage due to regular starting and stopping of trucks

# Time for Change?

- Reduce trash around town
- Increase customer service response
  - Specify baseline service levels
- Reduce wear & tear on roads (resulting in \$ savings)
- Reduce costs to residents
  - Avg cost to residents in peer cities is ~ \$16 per month/household
- Increase efficiency and lower costs for haulers
  - Billing/collection
  - Streamline pick-up operations (fuel savings)
  - Economies of scale

# Option 1

- Single trash hauler
- Benefits:
  - Single contract (easier to administer)
  - Lowest monthly costs to citizen/city
- Drawbacks:
  - Limits haulers that can bid
  - If issues with hauler, stuck with them for the entire City



# Option 2

- Multiple trash haulers
- Divide City into “hauling zones”
- Benefits:
  - Scalability for smaller haulers
  - Ability to evaluate numerous haulers over time
- Drawbacks:
  - Staff time to coordinate
  - Possible slightly higher monthly costs to citizen vs. Option 1
    - Still significantly lower than current costs

# Staff Recommendation

- Multiple hauler model
  - Allows smaller local haulers to continue serving residents
  - Avg cost of each zone, so all residents pay the same amount
- Hauling cost included on monthly utility bill
- Hire Solid Waste Coordinator to oversee program
  - Small admin fee included each month
    - Covers cost of Coordinator position and billing costs
    - Potentially provide dedicated funding for ROW/illegal dumping program
  - No additional cost to the General Fund

# Still to Consider

- Low-income homes
- Elderly/mobility issues
- Low volume households
- HOA's

# Next Steps

- Council resolution to pursue a solid waste program
- Continue staff/council conversation to develop desired service parameters
- Notify haulers of intent to issue RFQ
  - 2-year notice required by state regulation
  - Discuss options and get feedback





# Questions?

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