



CITY OF DUNWOODY

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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council, City Manager

From: Jeff Timler, Special Projects Manager

Date: July 1, 2009

Subject: Sanitation Services

During a past work session, Council directed the City Manager to evaluate the potential for outsourcing sanitation services. Dekalb County is currently providing this service in Dunwoody and is required to continue providing this service for 2 years from the date of incorporation. The City Manager appointed me to chair a cross-departmental committee to look at the issue of sanitation and report back to him by July, 2009. The committee consists of Public Works Director Richard Meehan and Finance Director Chris Pike. This committee's main goal is to create a request for proposals (RFP), a sanitation ordinance, and a subsequent contract that meets or exceeds Dekalb's current level of services should we proceed to this level of evaluation.

The committee started by meeting with private sanitation companies to learn more about industry standards and innovative ways to provide service. We learned the following:

- Many companies have created recycling incentive programs (Dekalb currently requires residents to pay an additional fee to participate in the service (outside of aluminum cans and paper) which may function as a disincentive.).
- Most entities and private companies include recycling in the costs of the service as this creates more of an incentive.
- Many companies also create additional educational and recycling incentive programs which further the recycling cause.
- Most cities and private companies pick up once a week as opposed to the current two (2) times a week.
- From a sustainability aspect, one day a week pick up may create the most efficiencies and overall community benefits because of reduction in emissions; reduce costs, less road infrastructure/road maintenance, increased recycling, and increased safety.

We have also reviewed recent RFP's from Stone Mountain, Lilburn, Fairburn, and Gwinnett County and have been provided input from the Sustainability Committee.

Please consider the following observations as we move through this process that we obtained from meeting with private vendors and reviewing the most current efforts of other local governments in dealing with private trash collection models, as well as the preliminary feedback we have received from the Sustainability Commission:

- City of Dunwoody needs to consider the pros and cons to changing service from two day a week pickup to one day a week pickup.
 - Reduction in frequency of service from current DeKalb practice (Con)
 - Aesthetic benefit to having only one day a week with garbage cans on curb (Pro)
 - Reduction in cost to residential consumers (Pro)
 - Less truck traffic on our roadways (Pro)
 - One large (95 gallon) container instead of multiple mismatched garbage cans on curb (Pro)
- Regardless of the frequency of pickup, currently, there is no requirement for a standard container which allows for a varied appearance
- DeKalb County charges for recycling and this causes a disincentive to recycling efforts in Dunwoody
- Yard debris, white goods, and bulky items should also be required as part of the service which is consistent with the current level of service.
- The ordinance should provide for an exclusive Franchise Agreement that would require a single contractor to provide residential and commercial sanitation and recycling services.
- DeKalb County should be allowed to participate in the bid process as a potential vendor.
- The RFP for sanitation services should include a requirement for vendors to price both a one day a week and two day a week residential sanitation service. This would give the City the option of choosing between these two levels of service once this issue has received the appropriate amount of public input.

The issue of privatizing sanitation services is a major consideration for this City Council. To this end, a thoughtful and inclusive process is necessary to achieve success. Staff recommends that prior to finalizing and releasing an RFP that three town hall meetings be held to solicit input from both homeowners and business owners regarding sanitation services. To facilitate these “community discussions”, staff has produced a “facts and issues” document that is enclosed with this memo. In addition to the community meetings proposed below, staff is recommending a web survey and a public outreach program to try to include as many people in our community in the process as possible. Not everyone interested in this issue is likely to attend a public meeting.

The following is a proposed schedule should you find it acceptable:

9/14/2009 - 1st Public Hearing

9/21/2009 - 2nd Public Hearing

9/28/2009 - 3rd Public Hearing

*In order to receive the most input from the public, it may be advisable to begin these hearings in September when most have returned from summer vacation and school has started.

10/12/2009 – Council provides staff direction regarding the issuance of the RFP

10/21/2009 - Issue RFP/Commence process of adopting a Sanitation ordinance

1/11/2009 Recommendation to council/potential execution of contract.

Depending upon contractor mobilization and notification to Dekalb, a start date could be June or July 2010 or potentially January 1, 2011.

City of Dunwoody – Sanitation Services

Facts and Potential Issues

For the purpose of engaging community discussion

Dekalb County Residential Sanitation Service Facts:

- Dekalb charges \$265 a year for twice a week garbage pickup.
- Included in this price is picking up of yard debris, white goods, and bulky items. Aluminum cans are picked up in resident provided plastic bags on the first pick up day and newsprint bundled and tied on the 2nd collection day.
- Residents are allowed unlimited amount of household solid waste curbside in approved 20-32 gallon metal or plastic cans or bags and paper boxes.
- Optional recycling costs an additional \$30 for the first year and \$15/year thereafter (\$15 for the recycling blue bin and \$15 for box of 100 commingled blue bags).

Questions or issues to address:

- Cost of service
- Frequency of service
- Franchise fees paid to the City of Dunwoody by selected vendor
- Service improvements
- Aesthetics
- Recycling