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District A



SANITATION UPDATES

Friends,

Happy New Year. With the holidays over and Mardi Gras season upon us, we have several important updates to sanitation collection, crime, and quarterly budget reviews. To make things easier, we've broken these updates into bite-sized newsletters. Below are updates relative to trash and recycling collection:

The City's 311 system recorded 3,638 sanitation complaints within the first 19 days of January alone. Our office received close to 400 complaints over the last few weeks about trash and recycling.

Let's start with the first question residents have been asking, "Why am I paying for twice/week service but only receiving it once/week?" The primary answer is below – the total amount collected from the \$24 we pay monthly has remained flat, yet costs have ballooned with the new contracts in the former Metro area (Service Area 2) and supplementing collection in the Richard's Disposal, Inc. (Service Areas 1 & 4):

Sanitation Info	2021 Sanitation Expenditures	2023 Sanitation Expenditures
Collection contracts	\$25M	\$35.4M
Tipping fees	\$5.3M	\$6.9M
City Sanitation crews	\$2.6M	\$3.8M
Highway sweeping	\$250K	\$328K
Admin, Mardi Gras, Field Tools, Vehicles, etc.	\$1.4M	\$3.9M
TOTAL Expenditures	\$34.5M	\$50.08M
TOTAL Revenue	\$33.9M	\$35M
TOTAL Deficit	\$600K	\$15.08M

As you can see, the Sanitation Department is operating at an obvious deficit compared to the actual, rising costs. Two years ago, the City was slightly in the red. Now, it costs about \$15 million more to pick up trash and recycling under the current contracts.

The second issue is if you live in the area serviced by RDI, there are two truths here: trash and recycling need to be timely collected, *and* the City needs to treat its partners right. I have spoken about the unlevel playing field for RDI considering the increase for collection and recycling under the new contracts.

The City is currently negotiating with RDI to see them through the end of their contract. This "get well" package is intended to stabilize service and fund higher labor costs. If you are interested in a RDI presentation and the City Council's Community Development Committee's questions about collection issues, you can view the full meeting [at this link](#).

Best,

