



Solid Waste & Recycling Office, DPW

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Kevin J. Murphy, City Manager

FROM: Gunther Wellenstein, Solid Waste & Recycling Coordinator

VIA: James Troup, Acting DPW Commissioner

DATE: February 28, 2018

SUBJECT: MOTION NO. 7.3 DATED 2/06/18 BY COUNCILOR CIRILLO

Req. City Mgr. Provide A Report Regarding Cost Analysis Of Recycling Pick-Up Every Week Comparing It To Current Cost Pick-Up Of Every Other Week; In Addition Provide Possible Options For Residents That Bins Overflow I.e. A Second Bin For People Who Request It.

The SW&R Office and its contracted partner (Waste Management) are happy that there is interest in expanding recycling opportunities for Lowell residents.

Currently, in the fifth year of our five year contract with WM, the City is paying \$823,500 per year {or \$68,625 /month} for Every-Other-Week {EOW} automated recycling collection.

EOW means that half of the daily route, approximately 2,500 households, follow the BLUE schedule and the 'other' half follow the GREEN schedule, a week later.

Under an EOW program, each household receives twenty-six (26) curbside collection 'events' per year. Should the City choose to offer WEEKLY collection, i.e. doubling to fifty-two (52) collections, the cost of service could also double... Adding \$823,500 annually, to the \$5.2 Million [collection/disposal] budget.

With regards to EXTRA recyclables, the DPW provides a Recycling drop-off container at 1365 Middlesex St. This option is popular among the households that are not eligible for City curbside collection and is available to ALL residents that have extra recycling. In CY17, this drop-off collected 114 tons of recyclables... in fact, this roll-off is emptied three times a week!

Should residents find that their city-issued 96-gallon Single-Stream-Recycling (SSR) cart is not large enough for the volume of material they collect, they should be directed to contact the SW&R Office, via the HOTLINE (978-674-4309) or email recycle@lowellma.gov; the staff will be happy discuss what items are acceptable and what solutions might exist.

Please let me know if there are any questions regarding this information.