



Christine Clancy, P.E.  
DPW Commissioner

TO: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager *ED*  
FROM: Christine Clancy, P.E., DPW Commissioner  
DATE: June 3, 2021  
RE: C. Conway – Request City Manager Evaluate the Feasibility Of Returning to Weekly Yard Waste Pick-Up During the Growing Season (July and August).

The Department of Public Works (DPW) reviewed the request to return to weekly yard waste pick-up during July and August. The City has a contract with Waste Management (WM) for the collection of yard waste forty (40) weeks out of the year. This includes weekly yard waste pick up between March 1st and June 1st and September 1st and December 1st. Bi-weekly yard waste pickup occurs for the remainder of the year.

In evaluating the annual cost to add yard waste pick-up, it would cost \$43,750 to add yard waste pick-up in July and August. This amount was not proposed in the FY22 budget. Furthermore, DPW approached WM to understand the feasibility of adding weekly yard waste pick-up to their current contract. They responded that they do not have the resources available for this additional service and this has unfortunately been evident in WM's recent lack of performance. Based on this conversation with WM and the fact that this was not budgeted in FY22, it is not recommended to add weekly yard waste pick-up.

To elaborate more on WM's recent lack of performance, yard waste pick-ups were behind schedule in the recent two weeks. The reasoning for WM's lack of performance was due to their inability to retain and hire drivers and the unexpected repair of a vehicle. The retainage and hiring of drivers is a regional issue. WM also noted that some properties had significant amounts of yard waste on a weekly basis. One property has been noted to have over 100 bags on a weekly basis. While yard waste pick-up is unlimited, yard waste only generated from the property is allowed for disposal. These noted areas will be closely monitored by the City and WM.

The City is working with WM on a recovery plan to bring yard waste back on schedule. The City of Lowell is fining WM accordingly for their lack of performance per the terms of the contract. The DPW has also deployed its own vehicles to assist Park barrel pick-ups so that WM can reallocate a driver to yard waste pick-up in the interim until WM's recovery plan is fully implemented and effective.

Thank you

CC: Chris Haley, Solid Waste & Recycling Coordinator