

March 25, 2013

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

To: Mayor and Members of Council  
From: Milton Dohoney, Jr., City Manager   
Subject: Update on Solid Waste Collection Changes

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The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the Solid Waste Collection Changes, in which approximately 90,000 households will be given a single trash cart for their use.

The contract to provide the new residential carts was awarded to Rehrig Pacific. Service Graphics and Next Level Logistics, SBE vendors, will be working in concert with Rehrig as an integral part of the cart deployment.

Carts will arrive in Cincinnati on Monday, April 1, 2013. Phased-in delivery will start Wednesday, April 3, continuing over a 5-month span. Households with a Monday pickup will receive their carts first, followed by Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and finally Fridays later in the summer. The first 3 weeks of each month will be focused on deliveries. The last week of each month will be reserved for any changes or cart swaps.

The attached brochure is being mailed to households throughout the city. It provides basic information about the program, as well as information on yard waste and recycling.

Each household will be given a 65-gallon cart. Citizens are asked to use this cart for two weeks before deciding to swap for a larger (95 gallon) or smaller (35 gallon) cart. For comparison, when recycling carts were delivered, about 3 percent of households swapped for a different size cart. It is the Administration's experience that a smaller trash cart can also induce more recycling, thus saving landfill and tipping fees.

While the rule is that only one cart full of trash will be picked up, the City will announce a Trash Amnesty Week around certain holidays. During these specified weeks, households may set out additional holiday-related trash that cannot fit in their cart. Bulky items must still be scheduled for special pickup as per usual.

The Administration is executing a multi-pronged approach to disseminate information to the public. The plan is utilizing the following to get the message out:

- Direct mailing (brochure attached)
- Outreach/education at Community Council meetings
- Public service announcements
- Informational leaflet to be delivered with new carts
- Website updates to reflect service changes

- In-depth presentation in City Council's Rules & Governance Committee on March 26, 2013
- Training for Call Center staff

Additionally, Council aides will be briefed to enable them to answer constituent questions.

Staff from the Department of Public Services (DPS), including the director and deputy director, are visiting every Community Council meeting. DPS also staffed a high profile booth at the 2013 Neighborhood Summit, held Saturday, February 16, 2013. The actual carts representing the three sizes were set up for people to see, and staff members were on-hand to answer questions and interact with the 500-plus community members in attendance.

This report is for informational purposes only. No action of the City Council is required.

cc: Michael Robinson, Director, Department of Public Services