

STAFF MEMO

DATE OF COUNCIL MEETING: AUGUST 26, 2019 / AGENDA ITEM NO. 13

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Travis Parker, Planning Director

Subject: **BALLOT QUESTION CONTRACTED SYSTEM FOR RESIDENTIAL WASTE HAULING**

SUMMARY STATEMENT: On July 15, 2019, City Council provided staff with direction to prepare ballot language that would authorize the City of Lakewood to contract with one or more private waste haulers for curbside waste collection services for properties with seven or fewer residential units. City Council is asked to review and vote on the attached resolution and ballot language.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2015, City Council approved Lakewood's first communitywide Sustainability Plan as a guide for ensuring the long-term social, environmental, and economic vitality of the Lakewood community. The Plan's goals related to residential waste hauling received significant attention throughout the Plan's development and adoption process. City Council prioritized Strategy ZW2-A (Residential Curbside Recycling and Waste Diversion) in the plan due to the significant level of concern expressed by residents related to curbside collection of trash and recycling and the ability of policies related to recycling and waste diversion to significantly impact environmental health, public health, quality of life, and the financial well-being of Lakewood residents.

In 2016, as a first step, the Sustainability Division conducted a statistically-significant survey to understand Lakewood's current residential waste system. The results of that survey were presented to City Council on April 3, 2017 along with additional research on trash truck traffic counts and data collected from the licensing requirement put in place to identify which companies were operating in the City of Lakewood. At the conclusion of the presentation, staff committed to conducting additional research into waste hauling systems and policies, assessing different collection models in other Colorado communities, and conducting robust community engagement to understand the issues related to residential curbside waste collection.

Following through on these commitments, staff conducted extensive research into residential curbside trash collection systems and conducted a multi-platform and inclusive community outreach effort utilizing an interactive project website, mobile kiosks, in-person interviews, social media, print media and engagement at events, meetings, and community facilities. The results of this effort were published in the *2018 Lakewood Residential Trash Collection Report* and findings were presented to City Council at the February 4, 2019 City Council Study Session. At the conclusion of the Study Session, City Council instructed staff to provide additional in-depth analysis of three potential policy options including enhanced licensing, contracted collection, and a preferred hauler model.

On July 15, 2019, staff presented City Council with findings from in-depth research into the three policy options identified at the February 4, 2019 Study Session. Based on staff research, the contracted collection option emerged as the most promising option for achieving the community's goals. Efficiency gains realized through contracted service enable the community to access new services, significantly reduce neighborhood impacts, and provide an economic incentive to reduce household waste and overall costs, while also realizing the benefits associated with market competition. At the conclusion of the July 15 Study Session, City Council directed staff to prepare language for consideration for inclusion on the ballot in this November's municipal election.

BUDGETARY IMPACTS: The placement of this questions on the ballot will have a cost associated with it, though the exact cost is not known, it is expected to be minimal, since this will be a regular municipal election.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Staff does not have a recommendation regarding the placement of this question on the ballot.

ALTERNATIVES: City Council may either approve, deny or make changes to the proposed ballot question.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: This item was promoted through the regular communication channels for items that come before City Council for consideration.

NEXT STEPS: The next steps will be to place the question on the November ballot, should City Council vote to do so.

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution 2019-29

REVIEWED BY: Kathleen E. Hodgson, City Manager
Benjamin B. Goldstein, Deputy City Manager
Timothy P. Cox, City Attorney