



**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

99-086

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

MARCH 1, 1999

SUBJECT:

SOLID WASTE FEE
AND LEAF AND
YARD DEBRIS BAG
INCREASES

The City Council is requested to approve an increase in the current monthly solid waste user fee from the present \$8.50/month fee to \$11.25 for a two-year period beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2001. The increase includes \$1 for basic collection and disposal services and \$1.75 for the Curb It Recycling Program which was previously approved by Council.

The City Council is also requested to increase the cost of City yard waste bags from 50 cents to 75 cents, single-use stickers from 25 cents to 50 cents, and annual stickers from \$10 to \$12.50.

TYPE:

FISCAL IMPACT -

RESOLUTION

ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

The solid waste collection and disposal program is an Enterprise Account, which is funded exclusively through user fees and yard debris bag sales. The recommended increases are necessary to keep the operation solvent at the current service levels through June 30, 2001.

SUBMITTED BY:

JOHN P. BELLIZZI
PUBLIC WORKS
DIRECTOR

RECOMMENDATION -

A solid waste user fee increase to \$11.25 for a two-year period beginning July 1, 1999. This includes \$1 for basic collection and disposal services and \$1.75 for the previously-approved Curb It Recycling Program.

Approve an increase in the cost of the City yard waste bags from 50 cents to 75 cents, single-use stickers from 25 cents to 50 cents, and annual stickers from \$10 to \$12.50.

Evaluate solid waste programs and related user fees June 30, 2001. This would coincide with the conclusion of the current agreement to fund Curb It recycling. All metro

communities will be considering continuation or elimination of the Curb It Program at that time.

BACKGROUND -

On June 15, 1998, the City Council approved a Curb It collection fee of \$1.75 per household per month effective July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2001. Curb It was previously funded by the Metro Waste Authority.

At the operating budget workshop held on February 25, 1999, staff recommended an additional \$1 per household per month increase in solid waste user fees to cover the expense of increased landfill and disposal costs. A solid waste fund analysis revealed the need for a fee increase of \$2.75 (\$1.75 for Curb It and \$1 for basic solid waste collection and disposal fees). As a result, the current solid waste user fee of \$8.50 would increase to \$11.25 (\$10.25 for low-income subsidized households) effective July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2001. The current solid waste fee of \$8.50 has not been increased since April, 1991; however, landfill fees (which have escalated from \$17.75 in 1991 to \$30 in 1998) have now necessitated a rate increase.

In September, 1998, Public Works' staff met with neighborhood representatives to discuss proposed increases in leaf and yard debris bags and stickers. Those attending the September meeting recommended a bag increase from 50 cents to 75 cents, a single-use sticker increase from 25 cents to 50 cents, and an annual sticker cost increase from \$10 to \$12.50. Staff concurred with their recommendation and recommends the same to Council for approval effective July 1, 1999.