

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

REVISED ITEM _____

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

99-494

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

Several Council Members have received a number of requests to return to weekly collection of recyclable materials.

NOVEMBER 1, 1999

SUBJECT:

A preliminary analysis by the Public Works Department indicates an increase of \$0.83/month/household would be necessary to return to weekly collections.

**RECYCLING
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Before considering a return to weekly collections, we should contact the Metropolitan Waste Authority (MWA) to determine their ability to support the increased costs, and to survey our residents to determine their level of interest in doing so.

TYPE:

**RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE**

FISCAL IMPACT -

SUBMITTED BY:

The cost to return to weekly recycling collections is estimated to be approximately \$600,000/year. An increase of \$0.83/month/household would be necessary to support this change if alternative funding sources are not identified.

ERIC A. ANDERSON
CITY MANAGER

An estimated \$15,000 is required to pay for a reliable survey of City residents to accurately determine the level of interest in returning to weekly recycling collections.

RECOMMENDATION -

Receive, file, and refer to the City Manager for an inquiry to the MWA to determine if its budget could support the increase in recycling costs for weekly collection, and to consider including the cost of a reliable survey in the revised FY1999/00 budget if the MWA is unable to pay for the service change.

BACKGROUND -

City Council members and staff have received a number of inquiries regarding a return to the weekly collection of recyclable materials. Several Council members have indicated an interest in assessing the fee impact of returning to weekly collections.

The Public Works Department has prepared a preliminary analysis of the cost of returning to weekly collections and has determined that an increase of \$0.83/month/household would be necessary to support this change if an alternative funding source is not identified. In addition, the Public Works Director reports that since implementation of biweekly collections, the volume and tonnage of collected recyclable materials has decreased by 18 percent while household participation has increased by approximately 6.1 percent.

Prior to returning to weekly collections, I recommend that contact be made with the MWA to determine if its budget can support the fee increase. If they are unable, I then recommend that staff engage a qualified consultant to conduct a reliable survey of City residents at a cost of approximately \$15,000 to determine the public's interest in returning to weekly recycling collections at an increased cost of \$0.83/month/household.