

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

02-132

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

MARCH 18, 2002

On February 26, 2002, the Public Works Director recommended implementation of an appliance collection fee of \$35 as part of his Operating Budget presentation. Based on the information provided, Council requested that the fee be implemented effective April 1, 2002. Implementation of the fee requires Council approval of necessary ordinance changes. The required changes are now presented for Council approval.

SUBJECT:

APPLIANCE
COLLECTION FEE

FISCAL IMPACT -

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

Implementation of a \$35 appliance fee will generate an estimated \$210,000 annually in revenue for the Solid Waste Enterprise Account for the approximate 6,000 units expected to be collected each year.

RECOMMENDATION -

SUBMITTED BY:

WILLIAM STOWE
PUBLIC WORKS
DIRECTOR

Approve proposed ordinance changes and waive subsequent readings to allow for implementation of a \$35 appliance collection fee effective April 1, 2002.

BACKGROUND -

The City of Des Moines has traditionally collected appliances at the curb at the request of residents without a collection fee. The appliances were picked up by sanitation personnel and transported conveniently to a nearby metals processing company for disposal. The number of appliances has increased significantly since 1997.

Effective August 2, 2001, the Metro Waste Authority imposed a \$10 demanufacturing fee to ensure removal and proper disposal of hazardous materials such as capacitors, Mercury switches, and Freon often contained in appliances. The demanufacturing fee, in combination with collection operation costs for personnel and

equipment, results in a \$30 - \$35 appliance expense to the Solid Waste Enterprise Account. Surrounding communities have already instituted a charge between \$35 - \$50 per appliance to cover the costs for collection and demanufacturing.

The Public Works Department recommends implementation of a \$35 appliance fee which is comparable to the majority of the communities surrounding Des Moines. Implementation of the fee will result in added revenue of \$210,000 annually to the Solid Waste Enterprise Account for the 6,000 units expected to be collected. The Public Works Department has arranged for the preparation, printing, and distribution of appliance stickers in area retail stores and at the City Treasurer's Office in City Hall.

Neighborhood leaders working with City staff to improve the overall effectiveness of the City of Des Moines' Spring Clean-Up and Removal of Urban Blight (SCRUB) Program have been informed that the \$35 sticker would, if approved, be required on all appliances collected in conjunction with neighborhood SCRUBs during 2002. The neighborhood representatives did express concern about illegal dumping and the ability of the poor to pay the \$35 collection fee. To address these concerns, City staff is working with neighborhood leaders to address illegal dumping through prevention, enforcement, and disposal alternatives. Staff will also contact those agencies interested in receiving used appliances to assess their interest in being included on a list to be made available to those unable to afford the \$35 collection fee.
