

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

03-100

AGENDA:

MARCH 10, 2003

SUBJECT:

REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS
INVESTIGATION—
YARD DEBRIS
PROGRAM
PRIVATIZATION

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

WILLIAM STOWE
PUBLIC WORKS
DIRECTOR

ITEM _____

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

SYNOPSIS —

On March 12, 2001, by Roll Call No. 01-763, the City Council approved a service agreement between the Metro Waste Authority (MWA) and the City of Des Moines for the operation of a program for the collection and processing of yard waste materials. Among other things, that agreement established the City of Des Moines as the contract agent for the collection of yard debris within the city of Des Moines for the MWA at a rate of \$55.63 per ton (adjusted annually). A recent analysis shows the yard waste collection program generates insufficient revenues to cover the cost of the program. Discussions with the MWA have led to their planned release, at Public Works' request, of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an alternate yard waste collection agent in Des Moines. Staff recommends Council support of the MWA's plan to issue the RFP. Final selection of a proposal is subject to amendment of the current service agreement between the City and MWA for operation of a program for the collection and processing of yard debris.

Selection of an alternate yard waste collection agent by the MWA may complement future staff recommendations on the following:

- Distribution of garbage carts to all residents effective July 1, 2003.
- Implementation of city-wide automated or semi-automated refuse collection.
- Implementation of a charge for solid waste outside of carts.
- Elimination of solid waste collection in alleys.
- Enhancement of neighborhood cleanup programs (i.e., SCRUB).
- Solid waste fee increase effective July 1, 2003.

FISCAL IMPACT —

Elimination of yard waste collection program expenses will reduce the City's Solid Waste Enterprise Account expenditures.

RECOMMENDATION —

Approval.

BACKGROUND —

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In 1989, the State of Iowa passed legislation that prohibits the landfill disposal of yard debris. The law was effective January 1, 1991. To comply with this law, the City initiated a separate collection of yard debris for residential properties and constructed a yard debris processing facility. The separate collection program began in October of 1989.

On November 6, 2000, by Roll Call No. 00-4288, the City Council authorized staff to negotiate a 28E Agreement with the MWA for lease and operation of the City's compost site at SE 15th and Harriet Street. Those negotiations resulted in a service agreement for operation of a program for the collection and processing of yard waste materials. That agreement established the City of Des Moines as a contract agent for the collection of yard waste within Des Moines at a rate of \$55.63 per ton of material delivered to the Harriet Street compost facility payable by the MWA.

Staff has now determined that the costs associated with the collection of reduced quantities of yard debris on a varying cycle throughout the year exceed the reimbursement of \$55.63 per ton payable for yard waste by the MWA. During the current fiscal year, it is anticipated that yard waste collection program expenses will reach \$810,000 while revenues will be substantially less. Consequently, staff recommends Council support for the MWA's RFP to identify an alternate contract agent for the collection of yard debris in the city of Des Moines.

