

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**03-192**

**AGENDA:**

APRIL 21, 2003

**SUBJECT:**

SOLID WASTE FEE  
INCREASE

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**

ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**SUBMITTED BY:**

WILLIAM STOWE  
PUBLIC WORKS  
DIRECTOR

**ITEM 73A**

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

**SYNOPSIS —**

Approve solid waste and recyclables collection fee increase of 15 percent (or \$1.50) to a total of \$11.75 per 96-gallon container (\$10.75 for low income eligible households) and \$10.75 per 64-gallon container (\$9.75 for low income eligible households) is necessary effective July 1, 2003, with an additional adjustment of 3 percent per year through Fiscal Year 2007/2008. The fee increase provides for the procurement of 55,000 solid waste containers and automated vehicle purchases required to provide automated and/or semi-automated solid waste collection.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

The solid waste collection and disposal program is an enterprise account which is funded through user fees. The recommended increases are necessary to fund current service levels and future storm damage cleanups through Fiscal Year 2007/2008.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

**Approval of solid waste fee increases with an additional adjustment of 3 percent per year through Fiscal Year 2007/2008.**

**BACKGROUND —**

On April 19, 1999 by Roll Call No. 99-1189, the City Council approved a solid waste and recyclables collection fee increase to \$10.25 per household per month (\$9.25 for low income eligible households) for bi-weekly recyclables collection and basic solid waste and disposal service. Expanded service levels including the introduction of automation, Clean Team collections, private property cleanups, illegal dumping cleanups, and SCRUBS, along with negotiated wage increases, storm cleanup in 2002, and an expected transfer station closing now require a rate increase.

The Solid Waste Enterprise account provides funding for a wide range of municipal services including trash collection, yard waste collection, recyclables collection, appliance collection, and municipal trash collection along with expanded neighborhood beautification programs. In addition, the Solid Waste Enterprise Account has also been used to fund storm debris cleanups and the introduction of

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automation. Currently, an estimated 12,000 households receive automated solid waste collection, which has required the procurement of automated collection vehicles and solid waste containers. Staff now recommends further expansion of automation, requiring the procurement of 55,000 Toter containers, additional automated trucks, and rotary cart lifters ("flippers").

Funding current program services and further implementation of automation requires a stratified user fee increase based on the size of cart desired; \$11.75 per month per 96-gallon container (\$10.75 for low income eligible households) and \$10.75 per month per 64-gallon container \$9.75 for low income eligible households) effective July 1, 2003, with an additional adjustment of 3 percent per year through Fiscal Year 2007/2008. Funding for purchase is contingent upon a projected fee increase and final approval of the finance mechanism for lease/purchase agreements.

