

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE February 1, 2019

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Bulk and Brush Collection Program - Update**

On Wednesday, February 6, 2019, you will be briefed on the Bulk and Brush Collection Program - Update.

The briefing materials are attached for your review.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joey Zapata'.

Joey Zapata  
Assistant City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
Chris Caso, City Attorney (I)  
Carol Smith, City Auditor (I)  
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager  
Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager  
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer  
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer  
Laila Aleqresh, Chief Innovation Officer  
Directors and Assistant Directors

# **Bulk and Brush Collection Program - Update**

**Dallas City Council**

**February 6, 2019**

**Kelly High, Director  
Sanitation Services**

**Tim Oliver, Assistant Director  
Sanitation Services**



# Presentation Overview

- Purpose
- Program Background
- New Incremental Approach
- Committee Feedback and Considerations
- Next Steps

# Purpose

- Present new incremental approach to bulk and brush collection and receive feedback to develop final program for future Council action

# Background – Current Collection Program

- Operations

- Monthly collection for 240,000 homes
- Utilize 31 grapple trucks and 52 tractor trailers
- ~125 truck driver/equipment operators
  - Consistently requires resources from garbage and recycling operations, other departments, and contractors

- Costs

- The current program costs over \$22M annually
- FY2018 staffing costs exceeded budget by ~\$1M
  - Equates to \$0.40 increase to monthly fee

# Background – Current Collection Program

- Volume

- Collect ~170K tons annually over the last 3 years
  - Averages increasing significantly over past 8 years
- Monthly volumes fluctuate from ~7,000 tons to over ~20,000 tons



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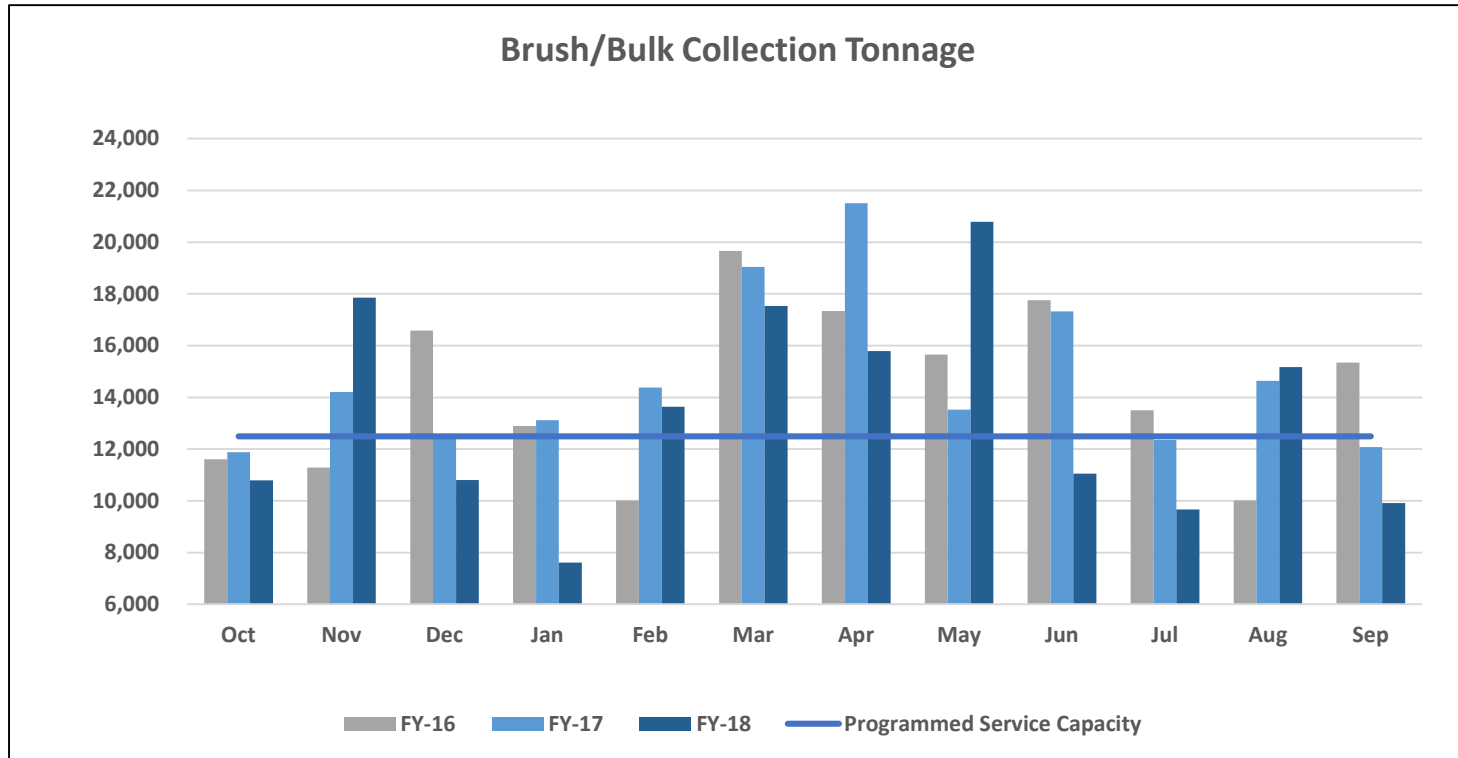
# Background – Key Challenges

- Neighborhood blight
  - Misuse and abuse (compliance)
  - No volume limits, few restrictions
  - Length of time at the curb
- Volume spikes = slower pickup
- Green waste is not diverted
- One-size fits all approach



# Background – Key Challenges

## Monthly Variations and Volume Spikes





# Background – Program Review

- In 2016, Sanitation Services hired a solid waste consultant to evaluate our current program, programs of other large Texas cities, and practical alternatives
- The goals for developing new program alternatives included:
  - Meeting residents' needs with reasonable collection frequency and limits
  - Increasing diversion or re-use of brush and yard waste material as outlined in the City's Zero Waste plan
  - Improving efficiency and consistency of service and reduce the amount of time that material is out for collection (i.e., improving neighborhood appearance)

# Background – Program Comparisons

Bulk, Brush, and Yard Waste Collection					
	Austin*	Fort Worth	San Antonio**	Houston	Dallas
<b>Number of Homes</b>	~193,000	~207,000	~340,000	~380,000	~240,000
<b>Scheduled Bulk</b>	2X/Year (restrictions)	Monthly (10 CY)	2X/Year (8 CY)	Every other Month (8 CY)	Monthly No Limits
<b>Scheduled Brush</b>	2X/Year (restrictions)		2X/Year (8 CY)	Every other Month (8 CY)	
<b>Scheduled Yard Waste</b>	Weekly	Weekly		Weekly	
<b>On Call</b>			2X/Year Bagged Leaves		
<b>Annual Bulk and Brush LBS/Home</b>	470 lbs	580 lbs	680 lbs	840 lbs	1400 lbs
* Austin - Bulk and Brush collection weeks are not always on the same week and not always every 3 months					
** San Antonio - Residents are notified 7-10 days before their bulk or brush collection begins.					

# Background – Prior Action

- In December 2016, staff briefed the consultant's findings and potential program alternatives to QOL committee
- In 2017, to supplement the consultant review, staff conducted a 6 month field survey to document customer usage
- In May 2018, staff briefed the Quality of Life, Arts and Culture Committee on refined program alternatives
  - A preferred alternative was moved to full City Council
- June 2018, staff briefed the City Council on a recommended bulk and brush collection program
  - Included monthly brush and quarterly bulk collection, with volume limits
  - No consensus gained and item sent back to committee

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# Background – Prior Action

- Prior feedback used to develop new approach
  - Improve neighborhood cleanliness
  - Make changes gradually
  - Simplify program guidelines
  - Add value – not less service with same fee



# Incremental Approach

- Gradual Implementation

- Smaller phased changes
- Establishment of clear guidelines
- Greater focus on outreach and education
- Pursue pilot programs for future phase recommendations
  - On-call/quarterly bulk collection
- Data collection
  - New program compliance (volume limits and guidelines)
  - Potential pilot programs

# Incremental Approach

- Initial Phase
  - Establish volume limits that meet the majority of needs
  - Develop, educate, and enforce appropriate use of bulk collection
  - New “Clean Curb” approach
- Benefits and Added Value
  - Neighborhood cleanliness
  - Bulk and Brush remain combined
  - Pickup schedule remains unchanged
  - Allows for more consistent, timely collections

# Incremental Approach

- Volume Limits

- Establish volume limits as provided for in the Dallas City Code

- Up to 20 cubic yard limit

- Equivalent to 32 standard clothes dryers
- 135 standard 30 gallon kitchen trash bags
- 40 roll carts



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# Incremental Approach

- Volume Limits

- Twelve (12) monthly 20 cubic yard collections

- Consider allowing one (1) of the monthly collections to be OVERSIZED

- Use of 311/call in to utilize oversize pickup
      - Up to 40 cubic yards
      - Captures need for annual tree trimming

- Why 20 Cubic Yards?

- Recent field survey indicated the following

- Most residents only use the service less than 4 times annually and most put out less than 5 cubic yards
      - 96% of set outs are 10 cubic yards or less
      - Potentially decrease annual tonnage by approximately 25K tons, but could further decrease with stricter limits

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# Incremental Approach

- Program Guideline Adjustments and Compliance
  - Educate and reinforce acceptable set out guidelines
    - Furniture, mattresses, white goods, other items too large for normal roll cart collection
    - No household trash, food waste or construction debris
    - No loose waste or scattered debris
      - All waste must be bagged or containerized (< 50 lbs.)
  - Intent is to eliminate improper/unsightly set outs such as evictions
  - Train field staff for maintaining compliance

# Incremental Approach

- Program compliance



# Incremental Approach

- Program compliance



OKC.gov – Bulk Waste

# Incremental Approach

- “Clean Curb” Approach
  - All waste on the curb will be collected
  - Piles exceeding the established limit will be collected and documented
  - Piles with items outside of guidelines (construction debris, loose trash) will be collected and documented
  - After a “soft launch” for education and outreach, residents are billed for the excess volume over the limit or prohibited items

# Incremental Approach

- Implementation

- 3 phase approach

- Robust Education and Outreach Program
      - Water bill inserts, mailers, door hangers, etc.
    - Soft Launch
      - An introductory period of 3-4 months
      - No additional charges
      - Notices of non-compliance
    - Full Implementation

# Incremental Approach

- Positive Impacts

- Improve neighborhood cleanliness
- Decrease annual collection volumes
- Reduce monthly volume spikes
- Improve collection timeliness



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# Committee Comments on Approach

- Limits could be reduced further, similar to other major Texas cities
- An OVERSIZED collection may be unnecessary and too complicated
- Changes to monthly bulk collection and separation/diversion of green waste is too slow
- Committee suggested full Council review of new approach before further development

# Considerations of Incremental Approach

- 20 cubic yards or 10 cubic yards
- Eliminate the oversized collection
- Quicker implementation of diversion
  - Alternating bulk and brush months
    - 20 or 10 cubic yard limits
    - 6x per year for each (even and odd months)
  - Can be implemented with existing resources



# Next Steps

- Receive Council input to continue developing a plan for approval in May 2019

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