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FROM	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cenname, Chief	CITY OF BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall (410) 396-4774		
	SUBJECT	Council Bill 19-0166R – Informational Hearing – Small Haulers Program and Bulk Trash Program		

TO

DATE:

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400

January 13, 2020

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 19-0166R, Informational Hearing – Small Haulers Program and Bulk Trash Program, the purpose of which is to invite representatives from the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to discuss the Small Hauler and Bulk Trash programs and how these programs can be adjusted to reduce illegal dumping.

Small Haulers

Individuals and businesses that contract with others for the collection, transportation, or disposal of solid waste are required to purchase a Waste Hauler License. Licenses are granted by the Baltimore City Health Department's Environmental Inspection Service. With this License, haulers are able to dispose of waste at DPW facilities. DPW has taken steps to make it easier for small haulers to properly dispose of waste to reduce instances of illegal dumping by lowering registration and disposal fees.

A Waste Hauler License previously cost \$100 before the implementation of the Small Hauler program. Through the Small Hauler program, small haulers, as defined in the City Health Code as registering one truck with a gross weight under 7,000 pounds, qualify for a discounted license fee of \$35. The City only maintains the \$100 fee for trucks over 7,000 pounds and offers 90-Day Small and Large Hauler Licenses at a prorated rate. In addition to the license fee, haulers pay a tipping fee to dispose of waste at DPW facilities. The Small Hauler program lowers the disposal fee to a flat fee of \$20 per load up to 7,000 pounds, while waste over 7,000 pounds is subject to a tipping fee of \$3.38 per 100 pounds.

Since the start of the Small Hauler program, the Health Department has recorded over 1,700 Small Hauler licenses, including 90-Day Small Hauler licenses. The Department of Finance can report that all Solid Waste Collection Permits generated \$223,000 in Fiscal Year 2019, this figure does not include disposal fees. In Fiscal Year 2020, all Solid Waste Collection Permits are estimated to generate \$158,000. Implementation costs are minimal and absorbed in the existing budget.

While the Program has generated revenue and Northwest Transfer Station is seeing high usage amongst the eligible population, there is evidence to show that it may impact other operational costs over time. For example, the success and popularity of the Program has prevented trash collection vehicles that traditionally used the Northwest Transfer Station from emptying there because of capacity limits. Instead, those trucks are re-routed to Baltimore Refuse Energy Systems Company (BRESCO) or Quarantine Road Landfill to empty. This results in increased miles driven and route completion times, which may potentially lead to increased vehicle maintenance, fuel, and overtime expenses.

Bulk Trash

The Fiscal Year 2020 budget for bulk trash collection is \$1,098,017. Bulk trash programs vary across cities. Currently, residents in Baltimore City can request bulk item pickup once per month by making an appointment with DPW through 311. In Denver, Memphis, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis, bulk items are

co-collected with curbside trash. Denver co-collects one day per month, Memphis twice per month, and weekly in Milwaukee and Minneapolis. These programs are standard with curbside collection, require no extra action by residents, and accommodate full-size furniture in size limits.

Conclusion

The Department of Finance will attend the hearing for this Resolution and respond to fiscal inquiries concerning the City's Small Haulers and Bulk Trash programs.

cc: Henry Raymond
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