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TO	Chairwoman Porter, Public Health & Environment Committee
FROM	Matthew Garbark, Director, Department of Public Works
DATE	April 8, 2026
SUBJECT	LO25-0017 Investigative Hearing – Zero Waste Committee Request #6
REQUEST TOPIC	How does DPW plan to communicate to the public that a profit from composting will not be made for several years?

Background

At the second convening of the Zero Waste hearings, Councilman Torrence discussed the education of residents about the delay in profitability from composting.

Response

DPW will be direct that composting is a cost-saving public service, not a short-term profit center. Our communications will emphasize that the immediate financial benefit comes from reducing disposal costs, avoiding landfill tipping fees and hauling expenses, while revenue generation follows later as participation scales and end markets mature. We will be clear that this upfront investment period is standard across major cities and necessary to build a stable, effective system. The bottom line is that composting delivers long-term value by cutting costs, reducing emissions, and strengthening the City's waste infrastructure, not by generating immediate profit.