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MAYOR

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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 #11
REQUEST TOPIC	DPW is to respond to the questions from two virtual speakers: <u>1. Mr. Sawtell:</u> Is DPW continuing to attempt to get permission to make use of hazardous materials as an alternative to landfill cover? <u>2. Mr. Sanchez:</u> Why are tipping fees so low for commercial haulers? Why is the City still giving a discount rate to dispose of ash? How is it managed? And what prevents it from becoming airborne?

Background

At the second convening of the Zero Waste hearings, Chairwoman Porter requested that DPW address questions raised during public testimony by Mr. Sawtell and Mr. Sanchez concerning the use of hazardous materials at the landfill and tipping fees for commercial haulers.

Response

1. Is DPW continuing to attempt to get permission to make use of hazardous materials as an alternative to landfill cover?

No, DPW is not pursuing the use of ash or any other hazardous materials as daily cover. All daily cover for the QRL is clean fill soil, free of hazardous containments.

2. A. Why are tipping fees so low for commercial haulers?

QRL's tipping fee had been in place since 1993. DPW does not increase the tipping fees, the Board of Estimates does. The prevailing concern over the years has been that increased tipping fees would lead to greater illegal dumping. This Administration is committed to advancing Zero Waste initiatives and this included increasing the tipping fees to preserve the capacity of our landfill. We are not seeing increases in illegal dumping as a result of this.

2. B. Why is the City still giving a discount rate to dispose of ash?

The rate for ash disposal is a pre-negotiated rate throughout the life of the contract. It includes yearly increases that extend until the end of the contract in 2031.

How is it managed? And what prevents it from becoming airborne?

Ash is managed and prevented from becoming airborne by combining the ash with other waste materials, pushing into lifts of no more than 8", and covered with minimum of 6" of cover dirt daily.