

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Rudolph S. Chow, P.E. Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	City Council Resolution 19-0166R		

January 10, 2020

TO:

Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

INTRODUCTION

I am herein reporting on City Council Resolution 19-0166R introduced by Council Members Henry, President Scott, Council Members Cohen, Schleifer, Sneed, Bullock, Costello, Pinkett, Dorsey, Burnett, Clarke, Reisinger, McCray, and Stokes.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Resolution is to invite representatives from the Department of Public Works and the Department of Housing and Community Development to appear before the Council to discuss the Small Hauler Program and Bulk Trash Program and how these programs can be adjusted to reduce illegal dumping.

BRIEF HISTORY

DPW's Bureau of Solid Waste is responsible for collecting and disposing of mixed refuse and collecting and recycling recyclables set out at the curbside by residents, as well as maintaining the cleanliness of the City's streets and alleyways. The Bureau provides curbside trash and recycling pickup including bulk items and seasonal waste for 640,000 residents in approximately 210,000 households citywide.

The City is divided into 8 bulk trash collection zones and collects up to three bulk items a month without charge for residents. In order to have bulk trash picked up, residents must call 311 at least four or more working days prior to their scheduled bulk pickup date. Items that qualify for removal include furniture, appliances, and tires (without rims). Construction material such as sheet rock, siding, wood pieces or roofing are not included in the bulk items eligible for curbside pickup by the City.

DPW also provides 5 convenience centers for Baltimore City residents to bring bulk trash, household trash and recycling, electronics, appliances, scrap metal, and other items. Two of the five convenience centers are located at larger facilities, the Northwest Transfer Station and the Quarantine Road Landfill, which can accept solid waste from small hauler collection vehicles. Convenience centers are a collection point for the temporary storage of solid waste from individual property owners, whereas transfer stations and the landfill can receive solid waste from collection vehicles that have collected waste from multiple properties. Residents often hire small haulers, or use their own commercial vehicle, to clear their houses of unwanted items, including old furniture, appliances, or other items that are too bulky for regular trash disposal or too numerous for the City's bulk trash service.

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
January 10, 2020

Baltimore's small hauler program was originally only at the Quarantine Road Landfill but was expanded to the Northwest Transfer Station in April 2017 to provide an important service to residents and small haulers. DPW allows small haulers to dispose of their refuse at the City's Northwest Transfer Station (NWTS) for a nominal fee of \$20. The small haulers program aims to give them a recourse and option to dispose of their loads and in doing so reduce the amount of illegal dumping in Baltimore City. The convenience of opening the Northwest Transfer Station at 5030 Reisterstown Road to small haulers was meant to encourage these small haulers to become licensed by the City's Health Department and to become part of the solution to illegal dumping. Once the haulers dump their waste into a dumpster at the Northwest Transfer Station, a Bureau of Solid Waste driver hauls the dumpster to the disposal site, either the Quarantine Road Landfill or BRESCO.

The small hauler program has proved very popular. In Fiscal Year '19 there were more than 32,500 paying small haulers at the NWTS alone, resulting in over 21,000 tons of waste collected and \$781,894 in small hauler charges contributed to the General Fund. While this program has been beneficial to the haulers, it has stressed the Bureau's operations. The transfer station is operating at capacity, which has limited the Bureau's ability to use the facility for its own operations.

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSITION

The Department of Public Works will attend the hearing on this resolution to provide more detailed information and to answer any questions the Council Committee may have on City Council Resolution 19-0166R.

Should the Committee have any questions prior to the hearing, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Marcia Collins at 410-396-1960, or via email at Marcia.Collins@baltimorecity.gov.



Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.
Director

RSC:JBM