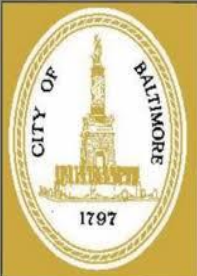


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Richard J. Luna, Interim Director	CITY of BALTIMORE <i>MEMO</i>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	Mayor and City Council Resolution 23-0413		

October 25, 2023

TO:

Economic and Community Development Committee

I am herein reporting on Mayor and City Council Resolution 23-0413 introduced by Council President Mosby on behalf of the Administration (Department of Public Works).

The purpose of the Bill is to repeal the Solid Waste Management Plan for 2013-2023 that was adopted by Resolution 14-019, effective October 30, 2014, as amended by Resolution 15-025, effective December 18, 2015; adopt the Solid Waste Management Plan for 2024-2033; provide for a special effective date; and generally relating to the Solid Waste Management Plan for Baltimore City.

The Annotated Code of Maryland (Environment §9-503) and the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR 26.03.03) require every county and Baltimore City to adopt, maintain, periodically amend, or revise a comprehensive solid waste plan that covers at least the succeeding 10-year period. Baltimore last adopted a plan through Resolution 14-019 (effective October 30, 2014), as amended by Resolution 15-025 (effective December 18, 2015). Mayor and City Council Resolution 23-0413 is the legislative vehicle that would repeal the amended Solid Waste Management Plan for 2013-2023 and adopt and replace it with the Solid Waste Management Plan for 2024-2033. While counties' and cities' plans are unique to their respective jurisdictions' solid waste management conditions, the structure and content of the plans are guided by the COMAR requirements. Each plan must include the following: overview of goals, description of local government solid waste structure, and listing of local, State and federal regulatory guidelines; background information on population, local zoning, and identified federal facilities located within the jurisdiction; overview of the existing solid waste management systems and programs; assessment of solid waste management needs and constraints; and a plan of action to achieve the stated goals over the prescribed 10-year period.

The Department of Public Works established a Solid Waste Management Plan website as a resource for the public to track the progress of the Plan and to collect and share their comments and feedback. It included the schedule of public meetings and their recordings, fact sheets and

presentations, and every draft version of the evolving plan. Outreach materials were shared on multiple platforms, including press releases, newsletters, social media, water bill inserts and flyers, and were translated into the city's five core languages (Spanish, Arabic, Mandarin, French, and Korean). These materials were shared with neighborhood associations, faith-based partners, nonprofits, businesses, and at libraries and DPW events. Public commentary was collected at the public meetings, through email, and on the website where one could provide comments directly onto the draft plan.

Five public meetings were held, three virtual meetings and two in-person meetings with virtual access. Information about physical accessibility and public transportation was sent out before the in-person events. Closed captioning was provided at all meetings, as well as alternative slide decks for attendees with low vision. Interpretation was provided when registrants indicated a need. The draft plan was also presented to the Planning Commission during one of their public sessions to assure that it conforms with other comprehensive plans of the city.

Many actions described in the 2024-2033 draft plan reflect transitioning towards zero waste principles, prioritizing the conservation of materials, circular economies, and greenhouse gas reduction. A summary of the plan is attached to this bill response. Some of the highlights of the Plan include:

- A roadmap for the city to achieve a recycling rate of at least 35% by implementing strategies to improve source reduction, donation, reuse, and diversion;
- Clean and green strategies focused on reducing littering and illegal dumping through community engagement and enforcement;
- Improvements to mixed refuse and recycling curbside collection, bulk waste pick-up, and the small hauler program;
- Expansion of Baltimore City's waste processing capacity, such as recycling processing infrastructure (MRFs) and composting facilities;
- Improvements to and expansion of the Quarantine Road Landfill and the City's waste transfer capacity; and
- Strategies to decrease the City's dependence on incineration.

As noted in the Law Department's response to this legislation, a State-required recital was inadvertently left out of the bill. We agree with Law that the bill should be amended to include the following, after line 18: "A public hearing on the new plan, as required by State law, has been held." This joint DPW/Law amendment is attached to this report for the Committee's consideration.

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
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Representatives of the Department of Public Works will attend the hearing on Mayor and City Council Resolution 23-0413 to present the Solid Waste Management Plan for 2024-2033 to the Economic and Community Development Committee, and to assist with any questions posed by the Council Committee.

The Department of Public Works respectfully requests that Mayor and City Council Resolution 23-0413 be amended as proposed by Public Works and Law, and that the amended bill receive a favorable vote.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Luna', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Richard J. Luna
Interim Director

RJL/MMC

ATTACHMENTS