


R. Gennaro

FROM		CITY OF BALTIMORE MEMO	
NAME & TITLE	Robert Gennaro, Chief		
AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall (410) 396-4941		
SUBJECT	City Council Bill #19-0137R, Informational Hearing – Baltimore City Recycling Program		

TO

DATE:

May 2, 2019

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

City Council Bill #19-0332 has been introduced for the purpose of inviting the Director of the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Head of the Bureau of Solid Waste to discuss Baltimore City's recycling program and its progress.

The City's Fiscal 2019 Budget includes \$24.6 million for mixed refuse collection, \$1.1 for recycling program administration, and \$1.0 million for single-stream recycling processing and disposal. The City has a contract with Waste Management to process the recycled goods collected by DPW from City residents per the City's single-stream recycling program. In Fiscal 2019, the cost of this contract increased from approximately \$80,000 to \$150,000 per month due to the sudden market change in demand for recycled goods and the sharp decline in the value of recycled paper products in particular. The City receives a small discount on the processing fee for recyclables depending on the mix of recyclables collected and current commodity values, but mixed paper and cardboard, which make up approximately 70% of the City's recycling, receive no discount under the City's current contract. Additional charges for contaminated recyclables are negligible.

In Fiscal 2019, the single-stream recycling program has also incurred an additional monthly transport fee of approximately \$87,000 per month to pay Waste Management to transfer the City's recycled goods from the Waste Management Recycling Center site on Quad Avenue to the company's processing site in Elkridge. This monthly transport fee has been incurred since the City's Northwest Transfer Station closed for renovations in March of 2018. The Station had been used as the transfer site for collected single-stream recyclables; when the facility reopens, it is expected that DPW will resume delivering recyclables there and that the transport fee will no longer be incurred. The total cost of the single-stream recycling contract with transport fees is expected to total \$2.8 million in Fiscal 2019, or approximately \$81 per ton. For comparison, the City's per ton tipping fee at the Quarantine Road Landfill is \$67.50 per ton and the BRESCO disposal fee is \$54.95 per ton.

DPW reports that in Fiscal 2018, the agency collected 153,973 tons of mixed refuse and 34,547 tons of recycled goods, with recyclables thus totaling 18.3% of refuse collections. The does not represent all waste generated in Baltimore City, as it excludes waste collected by private haulers in Baltimore City from most non-single family households, such as from businesses and apartment/condominium buildings.

DPW is currently in the process of updating its Solid Waste Management Plan; this plan should include a study of recycling methods, costs, benefits, and sustainability within the context of the shift in the global

recycling market. The Department of Finance has reviewed City Council Bill 19-0137R and will attend hearing for this resolution.

cc: Henry Raymond
Jeffrey Amoros