

<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Rudolph S. Chow, P.E. Director	CITY of <b>BALTIMORE</b>  <i>MEMO</i>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	City Council Resolution 19-0136R		

July 15, 2019

**TO:**

Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

**INTRODUCTION**

I am herein reporting on City Council Resolution 19-0136R introduced by Council Member Pinkett, President Young, and Council Members Henry, Cohen, Middleton, Costello, Scott, Stokes, Dorsey, Sneed, Bullock, Clarke, Schleifer, and Reisinger.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Bill is to invite the Director of the Department of Public Works, the Bureau Chief of Solid waste Management, and the Director of the Department of Transportation to attend an informational hearing regarding street sweeping and to describe the progress of the program, including the program's expansion, any time changes, and how this information is disseminated to the community.

**BRIEF HISTORY**

The Department of Public Works is the agency that, through the Bureau of Solid Waste, is responsible for the cleaning of the public rights-of-way. Property owners are, by Code, responsible for cleaning the front of their properties, including sidewalks and the curb area. If properties adjoin an alley, the property owners are responsible for cleaning to the middle of the alley. These overlapping responsibilities work well when all parties do their part. However, cleaning these rights-of-way is a challenge for most urban environments due to commercial and other areas that have a lot of foot and vehicular traffic, busy mass transit locations and transfer points. Not containing trash in cans with tight fitting lids, casual littering, abuse of corner cans, and other behavioral patterns also contribute to the challenge of keeping our City clean.

Mechanical street sweeping has been the employed method to efficiently clean streets that are heavily used. Streets are posted with the days and times prohibiting curbside parking along designated routes and those who do not move their vehicles can be cited and the vehicles towed. In addition to Department-established street sweeping routes, communities can invite mechanical street sweeping into their neighborhoods by circulating petitions for securing buy-in from residents to routinely move parked vehicles on certain days and for certain time periods. While the petitioning process was a good gauge of community support for the service, the routes themselves were challenging because some community selected streets were a mix of participating and non-participating blocks.

Beginning in April, 2014, the Bureau of Solid Waste launched a new initiative to expand mechanical street sweeping city-wide. This initiative coincided with the establishment of a Baltimore City stormwater utility to address the responsibilities under the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit (MS4 permit) and the Trash Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The MS4 permit addresses the impact of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces, both in quantity and quality. Mechanical street sweeping has been a very effective means to meet the requirements under the MS4 permit as the sweepers scour and remove large debris, sediment and other contaminants that affect water quality. Street sweeping also helps reduce the preponderance of trash getting into waterways, a necessary part of meeting the Trash TMDL. Building on the already established posted streets as well as the Gateway and commercial areas cleaning efforts, the program divided the City into a central core, a Downtown district, and four quadrant areas. The central core and Downtown district include most of the posted streets. Rather than posting signs all over the City, the quadrant areas rely on residents moving their vehicles voluntarily two times a month.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The FY19 operating budget for street sweeping was \$5,184,904 and the FY20 budget is \$5,009,349.

**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSITION**

The Bureau Head of Solid Waste and other Departmental staff will attend the hearing on this resolution to present information regarding the current status of the mechanical street sweeping program and to respond to questions from the Committee.

Should the Committee have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Marcia Collins at 410-396-1960, or via email at [Marcia.Collins@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Marcia.Collins@baltimorecity.gov).



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Director

RSC:MMC