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Committee Hearing Memo

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Subject | 19-0136R, Street Sweeping

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Overview

History of DPW's Street Sweeping Program

- Prior to 2014, street sweeping services were conducted in gateways, business districts, and in neighborhoods upon request.
- To get a street signed for sweeping, a petition process was used in which 60% of residents on the block needed to agree to move their cars to accommodate the schedule. Once this minimum was met, DOT would post signs, and add it to DPW's routes. This is still the process used to request signs in the Quadrants of the city.
- In 2012, DPW hired a consultant, which developed city-wide sweeping routes, which included the quadrant system plus a central district and downtown district. Street sweeping is completed downtown daily. It is conducted weekly in the central district and signs are currently being installed in this area. In signed areas, it is mandatory for drivers to move vehicles on sweeping days. The four outer quadrants are swept monthly, but the streets are not signed. Signs are posted on an as-requested basis; the same pre-2014 program regulations apply. A map of the quadrant system and sweeping schedule is available on [CityView](#).

Stormwater Utility Fund

- The current street sweeping service is entirely funded from the Stormwater Utility Fund.
- Per state law, all jurisdictions with a Municipal Separate Storm sewer System permit (MS4 permit) are required to maintain a "dedicated revenue source and protected fund to meet the environmental obligations required by the federal Clean Water Act." The MS4 permit requires the City to proactively address "the impact of stormwater runoff from 20% of city surfaces."
- The Stormwater Utility Fund was established by charter amendment. City Council Bill 12-0155 established the City's Stormwater Fee. The Stormwater Utility Fund is scheduled to bring in \$30.7 million in revenue in Fiscal Year 2020. Of that \$30.7 million, \$5 million will be spent funding the

street sweeping program. A copy of the Stormwater Utility Fund financial forecast can be found on page 6 of [DPW's 2019 Water Utility Rate Study Summary](#).

Benefits of Street Sweeping

- Street sweeping removes trash, and vehicle pollution, among other contaminants that can pollute public water systems.
- Street sweeping reduces the amount of debris that could clog storm drains and catch basins, thus reducing the chances of flooding during heavy rains.
- When roads have less debris, they are safer for pedestrians, bikers, cars, and other modes of transportation.

Current Levels of Service

- The central district is swept weekly. The outer four quadrants are swept on Wednesdays. A summary of the schedule can be found [here](#).
- In the central district, the start time for any street sweeping work block begins at 8am. There are also crews that clean streets overnight to accommodate traffic patterns.
- Street sweeping signage in the central district has been posted in the western portion. DPW is in the process of issuing a new RFP to sign the eastern portion of the central district. Currently in the eastern district, some signs are posted that were pre-existing before city-wide sweeping began.
- Street sweeping sign enforcement by DOT is happening throughout the city in areas where signs are posted.
- For every car this is left parked during a street sweeping day, the street sweeping truck loses approximately 3 car lengths of service.

DPW-Identified issues with Street Sweeping Program

1. Retaining CDL (commercial drivers license) drivers is a challenge. According to a CDL driver study, it would cost the department \$6,000 a driver to increase pay that is comparable to surrounding jurisdictions.
2. DPW does not have a reliable, systematic system or technology to route the most efficient path to sweep all streets. The Bureau of Solid Waste made an innovation fund request for a routing software that would utilize GPS navigation to route trucks, and allow sweepers to avoid traffic collisions or construction delay.
3. Compliance with street sweeping signs outside of the central district is voluntary, except where signs are posted as a result of a community request and petition process.
4. There are 36 positions budgeted for street sweeping, 28 of which are street sweeper operators.
5. Protected bike lanes make street sweeping difficult, as the sweeper cannot access the curb lane and gutter where litter and pollutants gather.
6. The program will most likely need expanded enforcement to ensure compliance with street sweeping schedule in central district. The best way to change behavior is to have consistent coordinated enforcement as soon as street sweeping is implemented.

7. If there is a CDL driver shortage for mixed refuse pick -up, drivers will be pulled from the street alley cleaning, then the sweeping crew.
8. Cleaning yards are 30-40 years old. The City is running out of industrial space. DPW employees are housed in suboptimal conditions.