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Committee Hearing Memo

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Topic | LO 19-0051, Alley Cleaning, Boarding, Grass Cutting

Date | July 17, 2019

Overview

Alley Cleaning Overview & Budget

- DPW fulfills most alley cleaning requests. DOT will complete street median cleaning.
- DPW's current Service Level Agreement to complete an alley cleaning request is 7 business days.
- DPW has routine alley cleaning services and special services cleaning requests.
 - Special services include: bulk goods, graffiti removal, white goods, and water-way cleaning.
- The VRI zones present an operation challenge. The Service Level Agreement in VRI zones is half the time of a regular Service Level Agreement. Reducing the Service Level Agreements to 2-3 business days in some neighborhoods requires pulling crews to quickly respond to these cleaning requests.

Alley Cleaning Budget Summary

- DPW's allocated approximately \$7 million for alley cleaning services in FY20. This is a part of Service 661 in DPW's Agency Detail. DOT's budget does not include a line item for alley cleaning expenditures.
- DPW was given an additional \$1 million in FY19. DPW is slated to receive this same \$1 million in FY20 to complete some of this work. However, VRI services began 6 months before the \$1 million was provided to DPW in FY 19. As a result, DPW has been operating under budget without the appropriate resources.

Boarding Overview

- There are 3 crews which operate on a quadrant system – The Solid Waste Quadrant System has different boundaries than the street sweeping areas. The eastern half of the city has 1 boarding crew, northwest has 1 boarding crew, and southwest has 1 boarding crew. These boarding crews are dispatched from the quadrant of the city they are responsible for servicing. The boarding supplies, trucks, etc. are not centrally located.
- Deployment of crews is based on demand, the highest demand for property boarding is in the winter – more people use vacant properties for shelter, etc.

Boarding Budget Summary

- DPW's budget for Service 662: Vacant/Abandoned Property Cleaning and Boarding for Fiscal Year 2020 is \$12.6 million, \$11.6 million on "vacant/abandoned property cleaning and boarding" and \$1.1 million on "rat control." DPW does not report in the agency detail how the money in Service 662 is spent on boarding of vacant properties.
- Of Service 662's budget, \$5.5 million is spent on personnel salaries, not including OPC (other personnel costs). An additional \$4.5 million will be spent in FY20 on contractual services related to cleaning vacant property and vacant lots.

Grass Cutting Overview

- DGS, BCRP, DOT, and DPW are all responsible for grass cutting. BCRP does all parks and some public spaces. DOT is responsible for roughly 870 median strips median strips, some grass cutting, and some trash removal. DPW has the largest portfolio of vacant properties to maintain. DGS does not report in the Agency Detail how many lots they are responsible for mowing.
- The majority of mowing and cleaning requests come from HCD inspectors proactively inputting them as they complete their usual routes.
- There are several community-based lot maintenance programs around the City. ECB has a care-a-lot program, HCD runs adopt-a-lot, and the Planning Department just took over two large city-block type sections of the City, removing them from DPW's Pro-Mow program. The Planning Department intends to turn these into community spaces under the Lots to Love Program.

DPW Grass Cutting Overview

- DPW classifies properties that need maintenance in three categories: City-owned vacant property, private property, and vacant lots. DPW crews maintain City-owned property. DPW contracts with Evergreen, P2, and Living Classrooms to fulfill grass cutting work orders for private property and vacant lots.
- DPW employs a Pro-Mow (proactive) Program for City-owned lots
- Private properties are evaluated on a scale of 1-3, with 3 requiring the most intense cleaning. Contractors mostly service Tier 1 and 2 properties, leaving DPW to service many Tier 3 properties. Level 3 properties typically have heavy illegal dumping which contractors do not have the equipment to handle.

Grass Cutting Budget Summary

- DGS, BCRP, DOT, and DPW do not break out what they spend on grass cutting.
- DPW's budget for Service 662: Vacant/Abandoned Property Cleaning and Boarding for Fiscal Year 2020 is \$12.6 million, \$11.6 million on "vacant/abandoned property cleaning and boarding" and \$1.1 million on "rat control." Of that \$5.5 million is spent on personnel salaries, not including OPC (other

personnel costs). An additional \$4.5 million will be spent in FY20 on contractual services related to maintaining vacant property. DPW does not report in the agency detail how the money in Service 662 is spent on grass cutting.

- In Fiscal Year 2020, DOT has \$3.8 million budgeted for Service 691: Public Rights-of-Way Landscape Management. Of that, \$2.8 million is spent on contracted services. DOT does not report in the agency detail how this money is spent among its public space landscape management.
- DGS' grass cutting service is most likely under Service 731: Facilities Management. In Fiscal Year 2020, \$38.1 million is budgeted for this service. DGS does not report in the agency detail how the money in Service 731 is spent on grass cutting.
- BCRP pays for grass cutting through two services in its budget: Service 646: Park Maintenance and Service 650: Horticulture. In Fiscal Year 2020, BCRP is budgeted for \$15.9 million in Service 646. Of that, \$5.9 million is spent on contractual services. BCRP does not report in the agency detail how the money in Service 646 is spent on grass cutting. In Fiscal Year 2020, BCRP is budgeted for \$1.9 million in Service 650. BCRP does not report in the agency detail how the money in Service 650 is spent on grass cutting.