

AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting March 17, 2020

DATE: March 4, 2020

TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager

FROM: David S. Lehfeldt, Director of Solid Waste Services

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361-826-1966

Solid Waste Services - Super Bag Pilot Program

CAPTION:

Motion to implement a six-month pilot program by the Solid Waste Department to provide a "Super Bag" debris and material collection service with a pilot fee of \$135 per service, to be paid at time of bag purchase.

SUMMARY:

This motion will allow Solid Waste Services to conduct a six-month pilot program to provide Super Bag collection service to customers for \$135. The \$135 charge includes cost of the bag, disposal, labor, equipment fuel, administrative costs, and sales tax. The pilot program is necessary to provide information on the viability of providing this service. The Super Bag will be available for purchase at the J.C. Elliott Collection Center.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

Solid Waste Services recognizes a need for residents to conveniently dispose of construction materials resulting from minor home renovations, repairs, and projects that generate types of waste not currently accepted by the City's collection programs. These items include lumber, sheetrock, tile, shingles, and other common building materials. The Super Bag pilot program will allow residents to purchase the use of a Super Bag from the Solid Waste department for a fee, which includes collection and disposal. Customers may purchase a Super Bag, fill it at their convenience, and schedule a collection by calling the City's Customer Call Center. The Super Bag will be collected from the customer's property adjacent to the curb. The Super Bag offers residents an affordable option to properly dispose of construction materials and should help reduce illegal dumping and blight within the city.

Prior to adding Super Bags as a permanent service, a pilot program will determine if the new service is viable and needed. The following information will be obtained during the six-month pilot program:

The time and effort required to collect the bags

- Personnel requirements
- Bag strength and spillage
- Customer behavior
- Effectiveness of instructions
- Growth trends of the demand for this service

These areas will be evaluated to determine the cost and long-term success of the service.

ALTERNATIVES:

Residents may continue hauling waste generated from home projects to the J.C. Elliott Collection Center for no charge or pay a contractor to haul the waste for a fee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The charge for the Super Bag was established to completely offset the cost of the bag, disposal, labor, equipment fuel and administrative costs. There should be no fiscal impact.

Funding Detail:

Fund: 1020 – General Fund

Organization/Activity: 12511 - Brush Collections

Mission Element: 031 Project # (CIP Only):

Account: 309330 - Special debris pickup

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval to implement a six-month pilot program to provide a "Super Bag" debris and material collection service with a pilot fee of \$135 per service, to be paid at time of bag purchase.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Super Bag – Pro Forma Super Bag – Instructions