

RESOLUTION NO. 20210127-057

WHEREAS, the City of Austin strives to provide valuable, efficient, and reliable trash collection service; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Resource Recovery Master Plan adopted in Resolution No. 20111215-047 identified the need for pilot programs to address the specific needs of multifamily residential customers to reach the City's Zero Waste goal; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin enters into contracts with private solid waste collection companies ("private haulers") to provide residential landfill trash container ("container") services for Austin residents living in certain multifamily residences with fewer than five residential dwelling units; and

WHEREAS, containers serviced by City-contracted private haulers have been placed in rights of way outside certain multifamily residences, including on sidewalks and lawns, and this has resulted in decreased sidewalk accessibility and an increase in individuals illegally dumping trash in or near containers on multifamily residential properties; and

WHEREAS, City of Austin customers serviced in these multifamily residences are receiving substandard and insufficient services compared to other residents paying comparable fees, since these customers do not have sufficient space to dispose of their own trash in overflowing containers, and the collection service as currently provided contributes to the creation of unsafe and unsanitary conditions, which leads to further inequities in already neglected communities;
NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council directs the City Manager to take the steps necessary to bring equitable trash collection service to multifamily residences serviced either directly by the City or by City-contracted private haulers ("City-serviced multifamily residences") where the current system results in overflowing containers, unsanitary or obstructed conditions in and around containers, and/or individuals illegally dumping trash in containers at multifamily residences where they do not reside. The City Manager is directed to manage City contracts to ensure equitable service is provided.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council directs the City Manager to explore, identify, assess the feasibility of, and bring back a report on short-term and long-term sustainable solutions to address trash collection equity, illegal dumping, and effective trash collection service for City-serviced multifamily residences, while maintaining low costs for ratepayers and prioritizing the health and safety of workers and neighbors alike. Options for exploration include, but are not limited to:

- Increasing the frequency of trash collection service at City-serviced multifamily residences;
- Requiring large containers at City-serviced multifamily residences to be removed from the right of way and placed on private property farther from the street, so that the containers will not obstruct pedestrian travel on sidewalks and other rights of way;
- Providing individual or shared cart services to households in City-serviced multifamily residences, while providing protections for affordability to already cost-burdened households;
- Providing shared cart services to properties by billing the property owner or condo association;

- Providing recycling service options for City-serviced multifamily residences that receive trash collection service but are not currently receiving recycling service;
- Providing access to containers that is safe and limits obstructions or unsanitary conditions; and
- Encouraging, funding, or incentivizing screening and the use of design and arts elements, including artistic screening elements, at existing City-serviced multifamily residences to discourage individuals from dumping illegally.

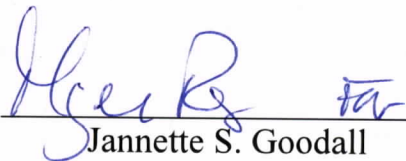
The City Council encourages the City Manager to consider different solutions for different locations as appropriate.

The City Manager's report to the City Council shall also include:

- Details of services currently offered to fourplexes in Austin, including the number of clients, locations, frequency of service, and costs;
- Summaries of past pilot programs and findings;
- Potential long-term solutions and associated implementation timelines and costs;
- Recommendations on:
 - an initial pilot program that will promptly and sufficiently provide insights as to the effectiveness of the pilot program, in partnership with affected communities; and
 - sustainable solutions; and
- Criteria for when container service, cart service, or alternative solutions are appropriate.

ADOPTED: January 27, 2021

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk