



Administration Division
Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 611
Detroit, MI 48226

Phone: 313-224-3901
Fax: 313-224-1464

To: Council Member Scott Benson, City Council District 3
From: Ron Brundidge, Director, DPW
Date: April 11, 2025
Re: Responses to 2025-2026 DPW Budget Analysis

DocuSigned by:
Ron Brundidge
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Please find below responses to your questions sent on 3/26/2025, regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget for the Department of Public Works.

1. Enforcement of Fine Structure in Curbside Solid Waste Contract

Which staff member is responsible for overseeing the enforcement of the fine structure within the curbside solid waste contract? How frequently are fines imposed on haulers, and what was the total revenue generated from these fines in the previous fiscal year?

All terms and requirements of the trash hauling contract is overseen by leadership in the DPW - Solid Waste Division. Superintendent Doug Collins is directly responsible for ensuring that all work is performed in accordance with the contract, and he has the authority to impose financial penalties, if deserved. The current contracts have only been in place for nine (9) months. To date, no penalties have been imposed for cause under the current contract. While penalties were assessed for the previous contracts, it is important to reiterate that the objective was to correct actions, not create an alternative revenue stream for the solid waste fund.

2. Evaluation and Amendment of Commercial Recycling and Solid Waste Fee Schedules

Are there any plans to assess and revise the commercial recycling and solid waste fee schedules to enhance revenue generation from this program?

We are currently assessing our recycling and solid waste fee schedule by conducting a comparative analysis of other cities in Michigan, as well as nationwide, while keeping in mind the rates of local private haulers. In general, it is cheaper to have fewer containers with multiple service days as opposed to more carts with fewer service days. Our goals in exploring an updated fee schedule is to adjust costs for inflation, to adjust the cost of multi-day pick-ups, while maintaining affordable and equitable access for businesses and nonprofits across Detroit.

We currently have 70 commercial recycling customers, generating an annual revenue of \$50,000.

3. Projected Use of Revenue from Solid Waste Collection Fees

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Could you provide insight into any future initiatives under consideration by the Administration regarding the allocation of projected revenue from Solid Waste Collection fees? Specifically, will these funds be directed towards projects such as new street pavement, curbs, sidewalks, or other infrastructure improvements?

Any revenues derived from the Solid Waste Collection Fee can only be used for eligible activities. The listed examples of new street pavement, curbs, and sidewalks are not activities that are eligible for being funded from the solid waste fee. Future initiatives that are being considered include the expansion of recycling opportunities to more commercial customers and public parks. In addition, available funding could be used for increasing the cycles of sweeping residential streets citywide.

MICHAEL DUGGAN, MAYOR