

Reply to Common Council File No. 010868

From DOA-Budget and Management Division

October 27, 2001

Ref: 01013 (46)

Common Council file 010868 is an ordinance authorizing the Department of Public Works to implement a fee for city pickup of major appliances. Currently, city ordinances dictate that bulky waste be collected by the city at no cost. This ordinance amends section 79-1 of the city's ordinances to implement a charge for city pickup of major appliances. All other large item pickups continue to be collected free of charge to city residents.

The implementation of a fee for appliance pickup elicits a number of concerns.

- Administrative oversight

Establishing a fee for appliance pickup does not automatically establish a process for administrative oversight. Implementation of this ordinance would require that Sanitation Workers and/or Sanitation Supervisors check property address and determine which properties should be charged. If Sanitation Workers are charged with this billing, there is no mechanism built in for potential delays in regular collection routes. If Sanitation Supervisors have to check every bill that is processed, this too will take away from their time of ensuring that the city is clean. Because of the lack of administrative oversight built into this ordinance, implementation of this ordinance will create a need to fund many additional positions of both sanitation workers and sanitation supervisors.

- Currently no active billing system capable of billing a fee for appliance collection exists.

In implementing this fee, the Department of Public Works will have to create a new billing system as well as oversee this new system so that this fee can be implemented. The creation of this system will necessitate delayed billing until the system is operational.

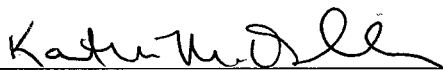
- This ordinance does not stipulate who is to be billed.

Currently, the city picks up large items whether or not citizens call to request the pickup. It is unclear if this process could continue if bills are to be processed. If bills are not able to be generated for both citizens who have called for collection and for those who have not called, this fee creates an incentive to either not request the service or to encourage illegal dumping of appliances.

- Cost recovery of service

The 2001 budget adopted a fee for solid waste collection services, which partially offsets the city's solid waste collection costs. Implementation of a fee for appliance pickup includes cost recovery of costs that are already partially recovered under the solid waste fee.

RECOMMENDATION: DUE TO CONCERNS IN IMPLEMENTING THIS FEE, IT IS RECOMMENDED NOT TO APPROVE COMMON COUNCIL FILE 010868.


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