

Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting

Agenda Report

To: Mayor and Council

Subject: Commercial Garbage Fee Window Decal Billing Process Change

Initiated By: Kyle McGee, Public Works Deputy Director

Recommendation: Approval is requested to change Ordinance 13-169 and 13-171, the Commercial garbage fee process from an annual fee that includes a window decal to a monthly fee charge on the Columbus Water Works bill and route map location identification, which replaces the window decal. Approval is requested to do housekeeping on the Chapter 13 Article VII Solid Waste Collection and Disposal to remove the term public services and replace with public works. Approval is requested to remove the language in 13-169.1 (e-h) for delinquent customer processing. Columbus Water Works has a process in place for delinquent billing and collection.

Background: In 2019, the department was contacted by Finance and IT to develop a replacement system for the Commercial garbage fee decal program. This system uses a window decal/s for commercial customers, sold at the Finance Department's cash window, to place in the business' window as identification for weekly garbage collection service. The data system used by IT has become obsolete and is no longer supported. The department met with Finance and IT in January to discuss the criteria for the replacement system and the timing of migrating the existing data to the department's network.

Columbus Water Works was approached to see if the commercial rates could be implemented on their existing billing software system. After discussions with the department, they can make software modifications which will accommodate both the commercial rate and residential rate. They already have coding in place to distinguish CWW customers as either residential, commercial, industrial, etc. and can adapt the new commercial billing rates into their coding system.

Analysis: This ordinance change will allow the City to accommodate both residential and commercial garbage fee billing as part of the Columbus Water Works monthly bill. It allows a simplification of the billing process for both IT and Finance, who will no longer need to sell decals or store the window decal customers. The Public Works Department will be able to oversee service for all garbage fee customers, who will then be billed monthly by the Columbus Water Works.

Financial Considerations: The ordinance change for the commercial window decal billing process change requires no funding source. The commercial garbage fees remain the same for on the right of way, off the right of way, and special veterinary pickup but will be collected monthly instead of annually.

Legal Considerations: . The first reading will be held on June 23 and, public comment will be allowed. Adoption at second reading on July 14 will allow notification of affected customers before the August 1 effective date.

Recommendation: Adopt an Ordinance to revise Sections 13-169 and 13-171 of the Columbus Code.