



CITY COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

DEPARTMENT: Commission

DATE: July 22, 2025

SUBJECT: Discussion and potential implementation of Enforcement protocols for Lawn and Yard Debris Disposal. – **Commissioner Mallozzi**

BACKGROUND OF ITEM:

The City has observed an increase in instances where lawn debris, particularly grass clippings, is being intentionally blown or displaced onto neighboring properties, streets, and storm drains. This practice impacts neighborhood aesthetics obstructs stormwater flow and can create public health concerns by attracting pests and reducing pedestrian safety.

ANALYSIS:

Currently, there is no specific ordinance in the City's Code of Ordinances that directly addresses lawn clippings or grass debris being blown or deposited onto adjacent properties or into the street. However, the following sections have been used for enforcement when applicable.

Sec. 8.3 – Litter in Public Places

Prohibits depositing litter on public streets, sidewalks, or other areas except in appropriate receptacles. This provision was recently used to issue a citation for clippings blown into the roadway. The citation was not contested.

Sec. 8-12 – Litter on Occupied Private Property

Prohibits placing litter on private property without the owner's consent and requires proper receptacle use. However, its application to landscapers or residents blowing clippings onto neighboring lawns is unclear and may require legal interpretation.

Sec. 8-26 – Bulk Waste Regulations

Governs the placements and removal of yard and bulk waste but is intended for larger debris and collection logistics, not incidental grass clippings.

In addition, the City's yard waste collection guidelines state:

- Each residential unit is entitled to **6 cubic yards** of bulk/yard waste pickup.
- **Contractor-generated debris is not eligible** for City collection and must be removed by the contractor.

RECOMMENDATION

Due to the absence of an ordinance explicitly prohibiting this activity, the following actions could be considered:

1. Request an official interpretation from the City Attorney as to the applicability of Sec. 8-3 and Sec. 8-12 for enforcement against landscapers or residents who blow lawn debris onto private or public property.
2. Consider proposing a code amendment to explicitly prohibit the act of blowing or depositing lawn clippings onto adjacent properties or into public rights-of-way. This would:
 - Clarify enforcement authority.
 - Provide equitable standards for residents and contractors; and
 - Support stormwater and environmental management efforts.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Eastern Waste Systems Agreement
2. Sec. 8-3 Code of Ordinances
3. Sec. 8-12 Code of Ordinances
4. Sec. 8-26 Bulk Waste