



STAFF REPORT

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

TO: City Council Regular Meeting **MEETING DATE:** September 2, 2025
FROM: Mike Null, Asst. City Manager
SUBJECT: Second and Final Reading of Ordinance O-14-2025, eliminating curbside recycling for city residential solid waste customers. *Mike Null*

BACKGROUND

Historically, the City's recycling services have been dependent on the ability to deliver recyclables to the Clay County Rosemary Hill Transfer station for processing. In January 2024, Clay County significantly reduced recycling options to include only corrugated cardboard, plastic bottles, jugs and metal cans. The City followed suit. Prior to that time, the City had 30-35% of its customers participating in the recycling program and was collecting 200 tons of recyclables per year. After this change, participation dropped to about 20%.

In September 2024, the County eliminated all recycling except corrugated cardboard and they ceased their curbside collection program. The City continued to pickup only rigid plastic containers and corrugated cardboard. Participation has steadily declined to 10%, with only 4% of our customers recycling cardboard with collection of only 18 tons of recyclables over the last year. The plastic that the City has collected since Oct 1, 2024 has been dumped with the regular garbage at Rosemary Hill.

At the budget session on August 7, 2025, staff recommended eliminating curbside collection of recyclables. This move will also allow the surplus and sale of the recycle truck and postpone the hiring of another person as would be needed for garbage collection in the fast-growing Rookery subdivision, eliminating the need for a rate increase for FY26. It will also reduce the overtime budget by moving bulk goods and white goods collection to a regular workday for solid waste personnel. Council generally agreed with this concept at the budget session, so staff presented O-14-2025 at the August 19th Council Meeting on First Reading to implement this change, which would be effective September 29, 2025. Council approved the ordinance on first reading and set this evening as the second and final reading.

FISCAL IMPACT

Avoids solid waste rate increases for FY26.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve on second and final reading Ordinance O-14-2025, eliminating curbside recycling for city residential solid waste customers.