

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL
OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS**

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June 17, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Keith R. Sydnor
Council President James Kole
Laurel City Councilmembers

THRU: Joanne Hall Barr, Deputy City Administrator *JHB*

FROM: Michele Blair, Environmental Programs Manager *MB*

SUBJ: Leasing Bigbelly Smart Compost Bin -- Multi-family compost collection

As part of the City's commitment to long-term sustainability, the Mayor & City Council passed Ordinance 2010, which established the organics composting program; defined separation of materials; and provided an effective date for the mandatory separation of organics from the waste stream.

Prior to passing Ordinance 2010 – the Council expressed concerns about how we would offer composting to condos and multi-family communities. A new product that is part of the Bigbelly system currently in use by the City is able to offer a solution.

Background:

Bigbelly (currently providing public trash and recycling containers within the City) – has a subscription based program specifically designed for multi-family communities. This is a propriety system and will be integrated into the existing Clean Software system currently in use by the City.

- a. One Bigbelly unit will be placed in each trash corral – removing at least one trash cart.
- b. The app (which is free for residents) comes in 11 different languages and will allow residents to open the bin.
- c. Usage will be tracked via a cloud app provided by Bigbelly Clean Software.
- d. The units are solar powered – environmentally friendly.
- e. The cloud system will assist in helping to prepare more focused educational and outreach information based on usage and assist DPW in managing collections more efficiently.

Recommendation – Bigbelly Smart Compost Bins

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Specifications:

- a. The leasing agreement comes with yearly mechanical checkups and a “make it right” clause.
- b. Software upgrades will be provided at no additional costs.
- c. Units that are not performing correctly will be replaced at no cost, other than shipping.
- d. Pricing is stable for a period of five years.
- e. The carts are compatible with our lift gates.
- f. Monthly leasing/subscription fee for 40 units – which provides services to all condo communities within Laurel was \$6,582.80/month.

Funding:

Funding for this purchase is provided in the Adopted FY2025 CIP – Environmental Programs.

Recommendation:

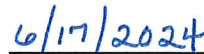
It is recommended that the City approve the five-year leasing of these carts for a total annual of \$78,100.80 to Bigbelly.

Should you have any questions or desire further information, please contact Michele Blair at 301-725-5300 extension 2203.

Reviewed for funding:



S. Michele Saylor, Director
Department of Budget and Personnel Services



Date