



CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

ORDINANCE NO. 2037

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND TO AMEND LAUREL CITY CODE, CHAPTER 7 "GARBAGE, WASTE, WEEDS, RECYCLING, ETC.," SECTIONS 7-36. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT, SECTION 7-38. PENALTIES AND ADDING SECTION 7-37.1 NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Sponsored by Councilman James Kole and Councilman Adrian G. Simmons

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2023, the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland instituted a mandatory organic recycling program Citywide, with the passage of Ordinance No. 2010 in an effort to realize significant savings in the amount of public funds spent on refuse tipping fees, and for the benefit of the health and welfare of the citizens of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has received feedback from residents requesting that warnings or notices of violations be added to the City Code and be followed prior to the enforcement of penalties for such violations; and

WHEREAS, the original effective date for the mandatory organic recycling program was set for July 1, 2025 for both single-family, townhome residential and multifamily residential properties; and

WHEREAS, the City requires additional time to research and implement a cost-effective system for collecting and enforcing mandatory organics recycling for multifamily residential dwellings (condominiums) and therefore desires to extend the effective date for those type of dwellings to July 1, 2026; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED, that the City's mandatory organic recycling program for single-family and townhome dwellings will take effect on July 1, 2025, and for multifamily residential dwellings (including condominiums) will take effect on July 1, 2026; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland that the City Code, Chapter 7 "Garbage, Trash, Weeds, etc." is hereby amended as follows:

Chapter 7 - GARBAGE, TRASH, WEEDS, ETC.

ARTICLE I. - IN GENERAL

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Sec. 7-35. Organics composting program.

- (a) *Established.* There is hereby established a program for the mandatory separation of “organic” waste, defined as food scraps, food waste, food-soiled papers and green waste, from solid waste collected from single-family or multifamily residential dwellings, whether the dwellings are owned or rented, including condominiums, in the City. Licensees and owners of single and multifamily rental facilities and condominiums shall provide an opportunity for tenants to recycle designated recyclable material in the same manner as solid waste disposal, in a convenient and accessible location with signage. Establishment of such programs shall be approved by the City of Laurel.
- (b) *Separation of materials; use of containers.* All owners and/or tenants of single-family or multifamily residential dwellings within the City, including condominiums, shall separate organic materials (as defined herein) from solid waste collection. All organic materials shall be placed in the organics recycling containers provided by the City. The above-described recyclable materials shall be placed at curbside in the same manner as other solid waste and recycling on days specified by the Director of Public Works for collection of such materials
- (c) *Prohibited materials include,* but are not limited to, plastic bags (unless certified as compostable), pet waste (including cat litter), facial or toilet tissue, “recyclables”, solid waste as defined in this section, and other materials prohibited by the Prince George’s County organics composting facility or the City’s Director of Public Works. A full list of non-acceptable items can be found on the organics recycling section of the City’s website.
- (d) *Additional regulations.* The Director of Public Works, with the approval of the City Administrator, is authorized to issue additional regulations as needed to safely and efficiently permit the removal and collection of the organic materials specified in this Section, and to otherwise achieve compliance with the provisions of this Article.

Sec. 7-36. Public education and enforcement.

- (a) The ~~City Enforcement Official~~ **City Sustainability Manager in conjunction with the Department of Public Works Official, or designee,** shall enforce this Chapter with the goal of maximizing the amount of recyclable materials and organic materials properly segregated by residents of single-family, **townhome,** or multifamily residential dwellings (~~including~~ condominiums), whether owned or rented, within the City, and correctly delivered to recycling and organics materials processing facilities.

- (b) ~~The City Enforcement Official~~ **City Sustainability Manager, in conjunction with the** ~~and Department of Public Works Official~~ **or designee,** shall conduct the following activities to enforce this Chapter:
- (1) Provide details on the requirements of this Chapter to affected residents of single-family and multifamily residential dwellings (including condominiums) whether owned or rented, within the City; and
 - (2) Develop and disseminate public education and promotional materials relating to the importance of recycling and organic materials processing, and the availability of recycling and organic materials processing opportunities available to residents of single-family and multifamily (including condominiums) whether owned or rented within the City.
- (c) Education period for non-compliance. Beginning October 1, 2023 and through December 31, 2025, the City **Sustainability Manager** will conduct inspections, route reviews, waste/recycling evaluations, and compliance reviews, to determine compliance. If the City determines that organic waste and recyclables are not being properly segregated and collected at a certain **single-family or townhome** property, it shall provide educational materials to the owner or tenant (as applicable) of said property, describing its obligations under this ordinance, providing a notice that compliance is required by July 1, 2025 and that violations may be subject to administrative civil penalties starting on December 1, 2025. **The effective date for administrative civil penalties for multifamily residential dwellings (condominiums) is December 1, 20272026.**
- (d) ~~The City Enforcement Official~~ **Department of Public Works** will monitor compliance with this Chapter randomly and through compliance reviews, route reviews, **and** investigation of complaints, ~~and an inspection program.~~

~~The City may issue an official notification to notify regulated entities of its obligations under the ordinance but is not required to do so before enforcement.~~

Sec. 7-37. Inspections and investigations by City.

- (a) ~~The City Enforcement Official~~ **Sustainability Manager and the Department of Public Works Official or designee** ~~is~~ **are** authorized to conduct **street side** inspections and investigations, at random or otherwise, of any collection container to confirm compliance with this Chapter. ~~This Section does not authorize any City official to enter the interior of a private residential property for an inspection under this Chapter.~~

Section 7-37.1 Notice of Violation.

Whenever a violation of Section 7-35 exists, the City of Laurel Department of Public Works Official or designee, is authorized to issue a violation notice notifying the property owner or tenant of the details of the violation. The City Sustainability

Manager shall also provide the necessary educational information to the property owner or tenant to aid in the prevention of future violations.

Should a future repeat violation occur at the same property within 30 days, the Department of Public Works Official or designee shall issue a second Notice of Violation indicating the details of the violation and shall also provide the necessary educational information to the property owner or tenant to aid in the prevention of future violations, and shall include notice that if a third violation is found, a municipal infraction citation as specified in Section 7-38. Penalties will be issued.

Sec. 7-38. Penalties.

- (a) The violation of any of the provisions of this Chapter is hereby declared to be a municipal infraction, and not a misdemeanor.
- (b) Any person who violates any section of this Chapter, after issuance of three notices of violation as provided for in Section 7-37.1, shall be guilty of a municipal infraction and shall be subject to a fine of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for the first offense, One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for the second offense, and One Hundred Fifty dollars (\$150.00) for any subsequent offense. Each day upon which a violation occurs shall be a separate offense. ~~Any City Enforcement Official~~ the Department of Public Works Official or designee shall be authorized to issue municipal infraction citations pursuant to this Chapter.

Secs. 7-39—7-40. Reserved.

AND, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

SARA A. GREEN, CPM, MMC
City Clerk

KYLA M. CLARK
President of the City Council

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

KEITH R. SYDNOR
Mayor