Compostable Bag Program & Proposed Agreements

UPDATE TO REGULATORY AND NEIGHBORHOOD AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

JUNE 13, 2019
The City began collecting yard waste (glass clippings and leaves) in compostable bags in 2009.

Compostable bags were chosen to replace petroleum based plastic bags to allow diversion of yard waste from landfill disposal to composting operations.

Diverting this organic material from the landfill results in significant cost savings and revenue to the City; and decreases methane gas emissions from landfills helping to mitigate climate change.

The cost avoidance of tip fees from program inception exceeds $3.5M.

Revenue received from the City’s composting contractor is $5.25/ton; which since program inception is $764K.

Originally bag vendors were approved for use in the City’s program as long as they met the criteria of the program and the composter.
Proposed Updates

❖ The two contracts being proposed would bring the suppliers of the compostable bags under contract with the City allowing for greater oversight and better service to residents.

❖ Contracts address customer service, durability and supply concerns.

❖ City will have options to terminate suppliers if the criteria in the scope of work are not being met.

❖ City selected to maintain at least two vendors.
Proposed Program Improvements

Program Improvements Under Contracts:

- Bag thickness is increased to 1.2 mil:
- Requires 12-month minimum shelf life after distribution to retailers;
- Box requires manufacture date and use-by date;
- Packaging in multiple languages;
- Dedicated customer service resource;
- Listing of where bags can be purchased;
- Royalty to license City logo to be paid per box sold. ($0.50/box)
Timeline for Implementation if Approved

❖ Within 30 days of executed contract the City will supply updated artwork to the newly approved vendors for use on the bags and boxes;

❖ Existing vendors will be notified that they have up to 90 days to sell or remove products with the City’s logo from local retailers;

❖ Residents will have up to 120 days to use any remaining bags before being required to use the two new approved vendors’ bags.
Thank you!

QUESTIONS?