

# CITY OF HOUSTON

## SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

### SPONSORSHIP FAQs

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#### 1. What are the basics of Sponsorship?

In the mid-1980s, the city council codified what was a then established informal policy that permitted certain civic associations to receive a reimbursement for their privately contracted solid waste services. The amount was set at \$6.00 per home per month, which was the then calculated amount for solid waste services. Since the initial codification of the program, many other civic associations have signed up, growing to about 170 contracts and more than 50,000 individual homes covered.

The Solid Waste Management Department's current FY2016 Sponsorship Reimbursement Budget is \$3,468,365. The Sponsorship Agreement accounts for approximately 5.0% of SWMD's budget.

#### 2. Where are these Sponsorships located?

Sponsorship agreements are in place all over the city and in each city council district. A district by district breakout is shown in the table below.

**Table of Sponsorships by HOA and residents**

District	Number of HOAs	Number of residents served	Percentage of total Sponsorships
A	6	755	1.5%
B	2	28	0.1%
C	25	1,143	2.3%
D	4	1,403	2.8%
E	33	21,831	43.6%
F	3	975	1.9%
G	81	22,625	45.2%
H	3	37	0.1%
J	5	187	0.4%
K	5	1,066	2.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>50,050</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

#### 3. Should the sponsorship program be discontinued, can HOAs maintain their current service levels and private service provider?

Yes. A simple notification to the City informing of this decision is all that is needed. An opt out for city service would be an annual option (just as sponsorship agreements are now). The HOA would be responsible for negotiating the service levels and pricing, just as they do now

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**4. What happens if an HOA chooses to return to City solid waste services?**

The HOA should first coordinate with the department their desire to return to city services. This coordination allows the SWMD to purchase and deliver containers for the HOA's new service start date.

**5. What services does this City provide?**

The standard SMWD services include:

- Once a week garbage collection
- Biweekly recycling collection
- Once a month heavy trash collection (even months)
- Once a month tree waste collection (odd months)

**6. How long does it take to be placed on City service once an HOA decides to end their opt-out agreement?**

A well-planned transition has generally taken from 60 – 90 days. During the transition period, the department blends the “new” collection area into its already established routes and schedules. Decisions on schedules and routing are key to ensuring that service standards remain high and there aren't logistical inefficiencies which could cause confusion not only in the “new” collection neighborhood, but in the service area which it becomes a part.

Typically, at least two information meetings are conducted with the neighborhood to directly answer questions and implement a smooth service changeover. **It is extremely important to not cancel private service without an approved transition and service plan with the city's SWMD.**

For more information, please visit the SWMD's website at <http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/>