



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of February 21, 2009**

DATE: February 1, 2009

SUBJECT: Authorize the advertisement of a public hearing for a proposed FY 2010 Household Solid Waste Rate increase.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize advertisements of a public hearing on the proposed amendment to Chapter 10, Article 1 (Refuse) of the Code of Arlington County, Virginia, to be held on March 26, 2009. The amendment, if approved, would increase the annual Household Solid Waste Rate from \$306.56 to a maximum of \$325.68.

ISSUE: Should the County increase the Household Solid Waste Rate by \$19.12 per household to a maximum total rate of no more than \$325.68 per household per year, in order to realize revenues necessary to finance expenses in the FY 2010 budget?

SUMMARY: The FY 2010 budget includes increases in the County's costs for curbside recycling and refuse collection, and an increase in the Household Solid Waste Rate to maintain the second vacuum truck pass of leaf collection and brush collection overtime. In order to keep the cost of collection and disposal of household solid waste and residential recycling 100 percent covered by fees, continue the current leaf collection program and maintain the brush collection schedule, the FY 2010 budget includes a maximum increase of \$19.12 in the Household Solid Waste Rate, resulting in a rate of no more than \$325.68 per household per year.

BACKGROUND: The increase in the Household Solid Waste Rate is based on the Department of Environmental Services Solid Waste Bureau's FY 2010 budget that includes non-discretionary contractual increases, the additional cost of the expanded recycling program, higher County vehicle charges, and Department of Environmental Services and County indirect costs. It also provides funding to maintain the leaf and brush collection programs.

DISCUSSION: The proposed Household Solid Waste Rate increase covers three areas:

1. The Household Solid Waste Rate is proposed to increase for refuse collection and an enhanced recycling program, which includes single stream recycling, new recycling carts for each residence and curbside e-waste collection, totals \$13.00.

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: Erik Grabowsky and Carolyn Gershfeld, DES

2. The Household Solid Waste Rate increases by \$5.84 per year instead of reducing the number of vacuum truck passes during leaf season from two to one. The leaf bag collection and the vacuum truck programs cost approximately \$1.1 million. Approximately 23% of the leaf collection program is currently funded by the Household Solid Waste Rate (\$8.00 per household). Instead of reducing the number of vacuum truck passes, the rate is proposed to increase by \$5.84 to cover the cost of a second pass for the leaf collection program.
3. Instead of eliminating brush collection overtime costs, which would delay brush collection, the Household Solid Waste Rate is proposed to increase \$0.28 to fund overtime.

FISCAL IMPACT: The proposed rate increase in the Household Solid Waste Rate of \$19.12 or 6.2 percent is included in the FY 2010 budget. The resulting annual Household Solid Waste Rate of \$325.68 per household would raise \$10.47 million in Fiscal Year 2010.

Attachment A

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REENACT, AND RECODIFY CHAPTER 10 (GARBAGE, REFUSE AND WEEDS) OF ARLINGTON COUNTY CODE RELATING TO INCREASE IN HOUSEHOLD SOLID WASTE RATE, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009 BE IT ORDAINED that Chapter 10, Article 1 of the Arlington County Code is amended, reenacted, and recodified as follows, effective July 1, 2009:

10-8. Refuse collection and disposal charges; relief from such charges.

(a) There is hereby imposed for each single-family residential dwelling and each unit of duplex residential dwelling an annual charge of ~~three hundred six dollars and fifty six cents (\$306.56)~~ three hundred twenty-five dollars and sixty-eight cents (\$325.68) billed quarterly, beginning with the quarter of July 1, ~~2008~~ 2009, through September 30, ~~2008~~ 2009, for refuse collection and disposal and recycling by Arlington County.