



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item  
Meeting of February 20, 2010**

**DATE:** February 1, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Authorize the advertisement of a public hearing for a proposed FY 2011 Household Solid Waste Rate increase.

**C. M. RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the advertisement 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 25, 2010. The amendment, if approved, would increase the annual Household Solid Waste Rate from \$325.68 to a maximum of \$344.24.

**ISSUE:** Should the County increase the Household Solid Waste Rate by \$18.56 per household to a maximum total rate of no more than \$344.24 per household per year, in order to realize revenues necessary to finance the inflationary increases in expenses for curbside recycling and refuse collection, restoration of funds resulting from a base budget reduction, and transfer the remaining costs of leaf collection not paid through the Household Solid Waste Rate to residents receiving the service in the FY 2011 budget?

**SUMMARY:** Advertisement and adoption of a household solid waste rate of \$344.24, an \$18.56 annual increase, would fund two distinct elements in the FY 2011 budget.

- 1) An increase of \$3.76 to the household solid waste rate would fund contractual increases in the County's costs for curbside recycling and refuse collection.
- 2) An additional \$14.80 per year would pay for the full cost recovery of leaf collection for residents receiving this service. **This revenue is not included in the County Manager's proposed FY 2011 budget and is intended to provide the County Board with additional flexibility during the budget process.**

**BACKGROUND:** The increase in the Household Solid Waste Rate is based on the Department of Environmental Services Solid Waste Bureau's FY 2011 budget that includes non-discretionary contractual increases. It also transfers the responsibility for funding leaf collection services to residents who receive the service.

County Manager: BMD/mjs

County Attorney: SAM

Staff: Erik Grabowsky and Carolyn Gershfeld, DES

22. H.

**DISCUSSION:** A Household Solid Waste Rate (HSWR) of \$344.24, an increase of \$18.56 per year, would fund two different areas described in the County Manager's FY 2011 Proposed Budget. The first is a base increase to the HSWR of \$3.76 which funds the projected County cost increases for refuse disposal charges at the Waste-to-Energy plant and recycling collection.

The second element to the HSWR increase is an option presented to the County Board intended to provide the Board with additional flexibility during the budget process. If the Board decides to fully cover the cost of leaf collection through the HSWR and not general tax revenue, then increasing the HSWR by an additional \$14.80 would provide for full cost recovery. This revenue is not included in the County Manager's proposed FY 2011 budget.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The maximum proposed rate increase in the Household Solid Waste Rate is \$18.56 or 5.7 percent and would generate \$11.15 million. The rate increase included in the County Manager's FY 2011 budget is \$3.76 or 1.2 percent and result in an annual Household Solid Waste Rate of \$329.44 per household, which would raise \$10.67 million in Fiscal Year 2011.

**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, 2010 BE IT ORDAINED** that Chapter 10, Article 1 of the Arlington County Code is amended, reenacted, and recodified as follows, effective July 1, 2010:

\* \* \*

**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 twenty-five dollars and sixty-eight cents (\$325.68)~~ three hundred forty-four dollars and twenty-four cents (\$344.24) billed quarterly, beginning with the quarter of July 1, ~~2009~~ 2010, through September 30, ~~2009~~ 2010, for refuse collection and disposal and recycling by Arlington County.

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