

Litter Collection Funded by the Solid Waste Management District

Summary

Keep Cincinnati Beautiful approached Hamilton County to secure funds to reinstate a litter pick-up program in Over-the-Rhine, as well as, making the service available to political jurisdictions within the County. Through this program, two Sheriff Deputies would oversee the Inmate Cleaning Detail. The total cost of the program is \$120,000.00. The Solid Waste District was approached to fund \$40,000. The remaining cost would be provided by the City of Cincinnati.

To expand the program beyond Over-the-Rhine, the Sheriff's Department would schedule collections in the communities. Although the specifics of the litter collection program are not solidified at this time, theoretically, the Sheriff's Deputies would operate in Over-the-Rhine and other areas throughout the County. The Sheriff's Department would schedule the litter collection pick-ups with other communities. A schedule is currently being developed with the City and County. Keep Cincinnati Beautiful would administer the program.

An essential component of any litter collection program is prevention. Keep Cincinnati Beautiful will provide litter prevention programs to the communities including: graffiti prevention and *Adopt-a-Spot* programs. To participate in the litter pick-up program, a neighborhood or political jurisdiction would help Keep Cincinnati Beautiful's litter prevention efforts by participating in programs such as Adopt-a-Spot and providing volunteers for annual clean-up events. Staff believes any litter collection program should have an education component for the prevention of litter.

District Funding of Litter Collection

District staff discussed litter collection with Ohio EPA, via phone, who stated that several solid waste districts are funding litter collection programs, including Cuyahoga, Montgomery, Lorain, Adams - Clermont, Warren, and Stark - Tuscarawas - Wayne.

While the District is not opposed to litter collection programs, this is a new area for District programming. Because of this, it is important for the Policy Committee to discuss the impact litter collection could have on the District's mission and vision. To help begin this process, Staff has developed several items for discussion related to this proposal, including:

1. Does Litter Collection Fall under the District's Vision Statement?
The vision of the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District is to "provide ethical environmental leadership to equitably promote the public good through innovative and responsible strategies leading to the management of all waste as a resource that leads to a society that generates zero waste."

Including zero waste in the District's vision provides a clear direction for programs focused on reduction, reuse, and recycling. Would funding litter collection activities cause the District to lose focus of its vision?

2. Funding of litter collection activities is a change in programming and philosophy of the District
Political jurisdictions representing over 90 percent of Hamilton County's population approved the District's Solid Waste Management Plan Update. While there is flexibility with regard to programming, the District is operating under a Plan ratified and passed by the County and its political subdivisions.

The approved Plan does not include the provision of litter collection activities. Therefore, District Staff recommends receiving formal input on the provision of litter collection from those communities that approved the Plan. To not delay the process, District staff could receive these comments within 7-10 days.
3. Diversion of funds away from waste reduction
The proposal to fund Sheriff Deputies to oversee litter pick-ups would be an annual operating expense for the District. This could have a negative impact on the District's long-term budget and mission by diverting funds from waste reduction and recycling programs, which are in the mission and vision of the District, and funneling it to litter collection programs.
4. Where does litter fall in the priority list of uses for the carryover balance?
District staff developed a list of potential projects for the excess carryover balance. The list of potential projects is included as Attachment E. It is recommended that the Policy Committee discuss the priorities, and where litter collection fits into these priorities.