

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 18, 2018

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

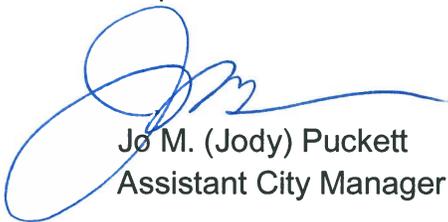
SUBJECT **Bulk and Brush Collection Program Information**

On Monday, May 14, 2018, Sanitation Services briefed the Quality of Life, Arts and Culture Committee on potential changes to the City's Bulk and Brush collection program. Prior to this, on February 26, 2018 the Committee was briefed on a recently completed field survey that was conducted to determine how residents utilize the current program.

As mentioned in the recent Taking Care of Business update, staff will be briefing the City Council on June 6, 2018 on the City's Bulk and Brush collection program. This briefing will be to inform City Council about the current program's challenges, the primary goals of considering program service alternatives, and proposed program alternatives for City Council's consideration.

Following Monday's briefing, various local news media outlets shared information related to the potential program changes. These stories have generated interest from many of your constituents regarding the specifics of potential changes. In advance of the full Council briefing, I am attaching a one-page summary of Monday's briefing that you can utilize to help inform your constituents about the discussion.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Kelly High, Director of the Department of Sanitation Services.



Jo M. (Jody) Puckett  
Assistant City Manager (I)

[Attachment]

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
Larry Casto, City Attorney  
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor  
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary  
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge  
Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager  
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager

Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager  
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager  
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer  
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Chief of Community Services  
Raquel Favela, Chief of Economic Development & Neighborhood Services  
Theresa O'Donnell, Chief of Resilience  
Directors and Assistant Directors

## Bulk and Brush Program Changes Under Consideration

The City of Dallas is considering ways to improve bulk and brush service delivery and at the same time, turn your brush and yard waste into mulch. To do this, it would mean changes in the way you put these items at the curb. Below is the latest proposal which was developed to meet the majority of resident's needs:

- Brush and yard waste (such as leaves and small limbs) would be picked up monthly, like they are now, but yard waste would need to be placed in "kraft" paper yard bags or compostable bags.
- Bulk items, the big stuff you throw away like appliances, old furniture, and vacuum cleaners, would only be picked up once a quarter, rather than every month. A bulk limit of 10 cubic yards has been recommended (about the size of 6 full sized refrigerators or sixty-five 32-gallon bags).
  - Bulk would be picked up once quarterly during your regularly scheduled brush/yard waste collection week, but it needs to be separated from brush/yard waste for collection.

There are two primary goals for the proposed changes.

- The first goal is to keep your yard waste separate from your trash so it can be diverted from the landfill. Brush and clean yard waste can be composted or turned into mulch for beneficial reuse.
- The second goal is to increase neighborhood cleanliness and decrease the amount of time bulk and brush waste sits at the curb for collection. A continuing increase in annual tonnage collected has significantly impacted the Sanitation Department's ability to collect bulk and brush timely.
  - Prior to 2014, annual tonnage was typically less than 155,000 tons. Bulk/brush collections in the past 3 years have resulted in over 175,000 tons annually, with no additional staffing.
  - Compared to other major Texas cities like Austin, Fort Worth, and San Antonio who collect around 500 - 650 pounds per household per year, Dallas collects almost 1,500 pounds of bulk and brush waste per household annually.

The latest program review also includes a revamped on-demand cost-plus pick-up system to make that process easier and more convenient for residents to use. If you have an out of cycle collection need, you may contact the city and simply schedule a collection for a volume based fee.

The Department of Sanitation Services has previously briefed other proposals such as alternating monthly collection (one month bulk and one month brush/yard waste) and a proposal for brush and yard waste collected monthly, and bulk items collected on demand. More details related to proposed changes and previously briefed information can be found in links below. The links will be posted on the Department of Sanitation Services website as well. ([www.dallaszerowaste.com](http://www.dallaszerowaste.com))

These changes are recommendations only and they will be briefed to the full City Council on June 6<sup>th</sup>. A timeline for implementation of program changes, if approved, has not to be determined.

Bulk and Brush Collection Program Update:

[http://dallascityhall.com/government/Council%20Meeting%20Documents/golac\\_3\\_bulk-and-brush-collection-changes-update\\_combined\\_051418.pdf](http://dallascityhall.com/government/Council%20Meeting%20Documents/golac_3_bulk-and-brush-collection-changes-update_combined_051418.pdf)

Bulk and Brush Collection Field Survey Results:

[http://dallascityhall.com/government/Council%20Meeting%20Documents/golac\\_2\\_bulk-and-brush-program-update\\_combined\\_022618.pdf](http://dallascityhall.com/government/Council%20Meeting%20Documents/golac_2_bulk-and-brush-program-update_combined_022618.pdf)

Bulk and Brush Collection Study Review:

[http://dallascityhall.com/government/Council%20Meeting%20Documents/gol\\_5\\_sanitation-services-bulk-and-brush-program-update\\_combined\\_111416.pdf](http://dallascityhall.com/government/Council%20Meeting%20Documents/gol_5_sanitation-services-bulk-and-brush-program-update_combined_111416.pdf)