CITY OF
BLOOMINGTON
MINNESOTA

Bloomington Sets Public Hearing on Organized Collection

For Immediate Release

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Bloomington – The City of Bloomington is asking residents to share their views on a proposal for a new organized solid waste collection system developed with the existing trash Haulers. At its May 18 meeting, the City Council set a public hearing for Monday, June 1, at 7 p.m. The hearing will be held in the City Council Chambers at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. The public hearing is one of many opportunities that Bloomington residents have to voice their opinions about organized collection.

It is anticipated that the City Council will gather public input at the hearing and consider approving organized collection at a subsequent meeting. If approved, organized collection service would begin in the spring of 2016.

Bloomington has discussed the possibility of organized collection of solid waste materials for residential households since the mid-1990s. Bloomington currently has seven Haulers that are licensed to collect trash from residential households. Under the City's current open system, where residents select their own Haulers, multiple companies

with multiple trucks operate in the same neighborhoods for the collection of trash, recyclables and yard waste.

In 2013, the Minnesota Legislature amended the process to make it easier for cities to work with their existing Haulers to develop a mutually beneficial organized collection solution. The City of Bloomington has been carefully following the amended "Organized Collection Statute" (Minnesota Statute 115A.94) throughout this process. The City Council directed City staff to begin private negotiations with the existing Haulers last fall. For the past six months the City and Haulers have negotiated in good faith.

The Haulers responded on April 30 with a final proposal to address the City's requests for the various solid waste collection services. The standard weekly trash service options proposed include weekly collection from small, medium or large carts. The proposed service also includes standard, every other week recyclables collection similar to the current single-stream recycling system. If needed, the Haulers agreed to provide extra recycling carts at no additional charge.

Haulers' Proposal Summary
($ per month per household.
(Includes current taxes and City billing/administration)

Trash Cart Size*	**Trash**	**Recycling** (Every other week)	**Total**
Small, every other week (30 to 38 gallon trash cart)	$8.81	$5.67	$14.48
Small, weekly (30 to 38 gallon trash cart)	$9.29	$5.67	$14.96
Medium, weekly (60 to 68 gallon trash cart)	$12.26	$5.67	$17.93
Large, weekly (90 to 98 gallon trash cart)	$15.22	$5.67	$20.89
Average proposed rate (Based on weighted average by cart size)			$18.49

The negotiated proposal is based on the plan for the seven existing Haulers to form a new legal entity or Bloomington Haulers "consortium." This will allow the existing Haulers

to work together to provide services in Bloomington and to maintain their existing share of residential stops in the community.

The City and Haulers worked hard to try to compare the Haulers' various proposals to current rates charged in the Bloomington open hauling system. The final negotiated proposal, for trash plus recyclables collection services, calculated to a weighted average of $18.49 per household per month. Prices will remain consistent over the term of the contract. A two percent price increase on the collection portion of the fees has been proposed that will be applied every other year.

The comparable current open hauling rates in Bloomington have a weighted average of $26.72 per month. These current rates were established through a survey of approximately 275 residences conducted by the City whereby residents were requested to voluntarily submit copies of their actual solid waste invoices from their Haulers. Invoices were received addressing all seven licensed Haulers in Bloomington.

The negotiated Hauler proposal also includes continuation of yard waste collection services as an optional service if a household subscribes. The negotiated proposal rate is $79.50 per year per household (or $6.63 per month). The current average rate for yard waste in Bloomington is $89.40 per year per household, based on the invoices that were voluntarily submitted.

The negotiated proposal also includes plans for the Bloomington Haulers consortium to continue the Citywide Curbside Cleanup as it currently exists from 2017 into the future. An existing collection contract for the Cleanup collection service covers the period from 2015 through 2016. The negotiated proposal while continuing the current Citywide Curbside Cleanup also reduces the rate by about $180,000 per year.

The negotiated proposal also provides for special, on-call collection service of bulky waste items such as large appliances (for example, a stove or refrigerator) and furniture

(for example, a couch or table) at a set price schedule. Other electronic waste (for example, an old TV set or computer monitor) is also included in this price schedule.

The negotiated proposal also provides for a potential organics collection service. If the City and Haulers agree to implement an organics recycling program, the citywide monthly price for organics would be $2.00 per household per month.

For more information about the City's organized collection proposal, visit https://www.bloomingtonmn.gov/organized-collection-bloomington. Interested parties may also contact Jim Gates, Deputy Director of Public Works, at (952) 563-8730 or send an email to OrganizedCollection@BloomingtonMN.gov.

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