



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

SAMUEL NEWBY  
PRESIDENT  
COUNCIL MEMBER AT-LARGE, GROUP 5  
OFFICE: (904) 255-5219  
FAX: (904) 255-5230  
E-MAIL: SNEWBY@COJ.NET

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425  
4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

February 7, 2022  
10:30 A.M.

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Honorable City Council Members

**FROM:** The Honorable Sam Newby, Council President

**SUBJECT:** Special Committee on Solid Waste

---

In accordance with Council Rule 2.103(a), as President of the Jacksonville City Council, I hereby appoint a Special Committee on Solid Waste.

**Background:** The City of Jacksonville has faced a variety of challenges and difficulties with its solid waste and recycling collection system in recent years. These include, among others; Terminating the contract of one franchise hauler and assessing liquidated damages against others for failure to provide an adequate level of service meeting contract terms. Suspending curbside recycling collection because of the inability of the haulers to adequately provide all collection services (garbage, recycling, yard waste, bulk pickup) concurrently. The failure of the solid waste user fee to completely fund the operations of the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund and the subsequent need to annually loan funds from the General Fund to subsidize the service. The collapse of markets for sale and reuse of many recyclable materials, leading to reduced revenue and increased costs for disposal of those materials. The contamination of the recycling stream from improper disposal of non-recyclable materials in the recycling collection system. The lack of a unified system for collection of recyclable materials from the hundreds of thousands of residents living in multi-family apartment and condominium units and from commercial premises. The inability thus far to successfully locate one or more sites and construct transfer stations to make the solid waste collection operations more efficient by reducing the amount of time collection vehicles spend driving to and from the distant Trail Ridge Landfill after they have completed partial routes. Operating under the Interlocal Agreements with the Beaches and Baldwin.

**Charge:** The Special Committee is charged to perform an in-depth and comprehensive examination of the City's solid waste and recyclables collection system; to analyze its strengths and weaknesses (both in the short term and long term), to examine potential options, practices and systems to improve the capacity and performance of current solid waste and recycling systems; to examine best practices and new technologies being applied in other jurisdictions that might offer practical means for improved operations. To examine whether there are any changes needed to the services and service levels currently offered; and to study how best to fund the solid waste and recycling operations to reliably achieve the desired service level in the most cost-effective manner.

In performing this comprehensive examination, the Special Committee should consult with industry experts, members of the Solid Waste Division, and other interested parties.

In addition, the Special Committee is authorized to undertake examination; of current status of all contracts for residential solid waste companies contracted with the City, reflecting the current term of the contracts, the amounts that the City pays each contractor per house-hold unit, and the status of rate reviews for those contracts; current status of the City's recycling program, including revenues and expenditures for the program before the recycling was suspended. Provide recommendations to improve the efficiency of collecting recyclables, as well as recommend cost savings to the recycling program. Recommend products that should no longer be recycled due to their declining or negative value. Review the history behind the Solid Waste Fee and the basis for charging the current fee amount, and furthermore what renewed fee structure would be required to eliminate General Fund loans to the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund. Provide a status to the implementation of a Solid Waste Transfer Station, and the benefits of implementing the transfer station. Explore opportunities in Waste to Energy as opposed to increasing landfills.

At the conclusion of its study and research, the Special Committee shall make recommendations to the full City Council for the adoption of new or revised operating policies, Ordinance Code amendments, contract provisions, funding recommendations, and other recommendations that the committee believes could improve the overall efficiency, effectiveness and long-term sustainability of the City's solid waste and recycling operations.

**Members:**

Council Member Ron Salem, Chair  
Council Member Joyce Morgan, Vice Chair  
Council Member Matt Carlucci  
Council Member Randy White  
Council Member Reginald Gaffney

**Deadline:** The Special Committee is tasked to develop a list of findings and prioritized recommendations to be reported to the Council President by June 30, 2022.

Thank you to each of the Council Members and staff who make the commitment to serve on this important committee.

cc: Council Members and Staff  
Director/Council Secretary  
Jessica Matthews, Chief, Legislative Services Division  
Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division  
Yvonne Mitchell, Chief, Administrative Services Division  
CITYC@COJ.NET  
Electronic Notice Kiosk – 1st Floor City Hall  
Public Notice System – City Council Web Page  
Media Box  
File Copy