

**PUBLIC MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND**

September 29, 2009

Assistant City Administrator Vincent Jones convened the meeting at 7:05 p.m., at Magruder Park Recreation Center, 3911 Hamilton Street, Hyattsville, Maryland.

Present were Mayor Bill Gardiner, Council President Marc Tartaro, Council Members Ruth Ann Frazier, Paula Perry and David Hiles.

Also present were City Administrator Murphy, Assistant City Administrator Jones and Communications Manager Sandel.

Note: The agenda and content of the meeting were identical to the prior Public Meeting, held on Monday, September 21. Council requested that the same meeting be repeated three times at locations throughout the City. This was the second of three meetings.

Assistant City Administrator Jones presented the City's proposed pilot program for once-weekly collection of household solid waste. Communications Manager Sandel presented the City's communications plan to inform residents of the changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Nina Faye, a Ward 3 resident, spoke against the changes. She is concerned about rats and odors. She also noted that the current service is excellent.

Ms. Kathleen McDermott, a Ward 2 resident, agreed that rats were a concern and noted that she feels taxes are high enough to cover twice-weekly service.

Ms. Virginia Escalona, a Ward 3 resident, noted that while the program is admirable in theory, implementation may present challenges. Heavy use households and trash in the streets were two issues raised by the resident. She also stated her concerns about the City's ability to halt the pilot should it prove unsuccessful.

Mr. Alan Mattlage, a Ward 2 resident, voiced his support for program. He noted that many communities do successfully pick-up household solid waste once a week.

Ms. Mary Starner, a Ward 1 resident, noted that the rodent problem is not only related to trash, but also household pets.

Council Member Ruth Ann Frazier, of Ward 5, stated her concerns about the rat population.

Council Member Paula Perry, of Ward 4, agreed that rats are a problem, and added that she is concerned about trash in the streets.

Mr. Chris Carroll, a Ward 1 resident, applauded the current service provided by the Department of Public Works. He noted that a reduction could result in the need for heavier trash cans that could cause problems.

Ms. Lois Runyon, a Ward 4 resident, stated that 90% of trash cans in her neighborhood are already overflowing on collection day. She also felt that requiring residents to purchase additional Toters would present a financial hardship.

Mr. David Marshall, a Ward 3 resident, voiced his opposition to the changes. He also opposed the requirement that all trash be placed in a City-issued Toter. Mr. Marshall noted that he would like to see an accounting of City funds spent to develop the pilot program and inquired about the replacement rates and costs for Toters.

Council Member Ruth Ann Frazier added that the projected savings are likely to be closer to \$230,000 rather than the \$400,000 cited in the report provided by the TATC consultants during the City's Management & Efficiency study.

Mayor William Gardiner responded to residents' concerns, noting that even if the changes do not encourage more recycling amongst residents, reducing the number of trips DPW vehicles make to the County landfill will have a positive environmental impact. He also stated that the range of savings varies and that savings could be used to either increase City services in another area or to reduce the tax burden.

Council Member Hiles, of Ward 2, noted that once-weekly collection is a common standard throughout the US, and that a pilot provides a good opportunity to examine our practices. The pilot, he continued, is conservative and provides adequate capacity to address any issues that may arise. He added that many families believe that twice-weekly collection is wasteful.

The Public Meeting ended at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Douglas A. Barber, City Clerk