

DATE ISSUED: June 6, 2005 REPORT NO. 05-141

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee  
Agenda of June 8, 2005

SUBJECT: Street Sweeping Program

REFERENCE: Manager's Report No. 02-059, dated March 18, 2002  
Manager's Report No. 02-246, dated February 1, 2002

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

On February 9, 2005 Environmental Services Department presented Manager's Report No. 05-034, Refuse Collection Rerouting/Greenery Expansion Project Status. As part of the discussion, the committee requested staff evaluate the possibility of moving the Street Sweeping Program from General Services Department, Street Division to the Environmental Services Department.

As part of this discussion, this report also describes the current level of service and the impact to the sweeping program based on the Manager's Proposed FY 06 budget.

DISCUSSION

Since the last Manager's Report in 2002, Street Division has taken steps to implement changes and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the street sweeping program. As the city continues to grow and add miles of new streets to the inventory each year, funding for the program has remained constant.

Street Division staff met with Environmental Services Department (ESD) to evaluate the feasibility of transferring the street sweeping program. Several factors were considered in determining whether the program would benefit from the transfer. These factors include: the ability to schedule routes, ability to track the motor sweepers, maintenance of motor sweepers, staffing levels and customer service.

ESD utilizes the "Route Smart" program to identify and create routes allowing refuse to be collected as efficiently as possible. ESD also uses real-time Global Positioning System (GPS) to track and monitor their vehicles. Currently, whenever refuse collection routes are modified, staff from both departments meet to exchange information to avoid scheduling conflicts. To the extent possible, street sweeping routes are generally scheduled after the refuse collection day. On June 7, 2004, ESD modified approximately 70% of their routes. In coordination with Street Division, street sweeping routes were modified accordingly.

Although not as sophisticated as the real-time GPS, on July 1, 2003, Street Division implemented GPS technology. The GPS devices are mounted on each of the 20 sweepers and provide the exact locations of when and where street sweeping is performed. The information collected consists of date/time, driver name, broom/water events, beacon operation, speed, rpm, and mileage.

When a resident calls with a request or a question, Street Division employees are able to look at a digital map and provide accurate information to the resident. The ability to access this information has reduced the number of complaints from nearly 30 per day to an average of three complaints per day.

In 2002, Street Division was double shifting the motor sweeper vehicles. The motor sweeper vehicles were breaking down frequently and taking longer to return to service, as the needed repairs were becoming more extensive. 14 of the 18 motor sweepers had surpassed their life cycle and needed to be replaced.

In FY 05, Street Division has 20 motor sweeper vehicles of which none of the sweepers has exceeded their life and need to be replaced. This has resulted in less down time and a more cost effective run street sweeping program.

After a joint review by Environmental Services and General Services, no immediate direct benefit could be identified by the transfer of the Street Sweeping Section. Street sweeping routes are scheduled in coordination with refuse collection routes. The cost to implement real time tracking is not justified by any benefits, unlike refuse collection vehicles that must know when a route is missed.

The Street Sweeping Program is an important component of storm drain maintenance. The city is pursuing enhancing storm drain maintenance by potentially increasing the storm drain fee. The additional revenue will have a direct impact to the Street Sweeping Program. Therefore, this feasibility report is preliminary and requires additional study

once the budget issues are resolved and the storm drain services charge study is complete. A recommendation as to the transfer of the program will be given to the committee once the operational impacts can be identified.

#### CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE

The Street Sweeping program consists of 31 positions with a budget of \$3,874,057. The 31 positions include 20 Motor Sweeper Operators, 2 Heavy Truck Drivers II, 1 Utility Worker I, 1 Customer Service Representative and 2 Public Works Supervisors. The budget includes \$2,072,486 for Personnel Expenses and \$1,801,571 for Non-Personnel Expenses.

The sweeping program is divided between daytime and nighttime sweeping. There are 12 Motor Sweeper Operators assigned to the day shift and 8 Motor Sweeper Operators assigned to the night shift. Daytime sweeping consists of 130 residential routes and 50 commercial routes. Night time sweeping is made up of 52 commercial routes. As a general rule of thumb, most residential routes are swept 1 time per month and commercial routes are swept 1 time per week.

On average, 80 tons of debris is collected per day. During a one year period, approximately 21,000 tons of debris is removed from the streets and kept from reaching our beaches and bays. Special requests for sweeping from other city departments and the community are handled on a case-by-case basis. Street sweeping is also provided to clean up the debris after vehicle accidents, spills, illegal dumping, center islands and bikeways.

Five Parking Enforcement Officers (PEOs) are responsible to enforce the permanent “No Parking” signs throughout the city. The PEOs also work with the street maintenance program to remove vehicles interfering with the asphalt overlay and slurry sealing contracts.

#### PROPOSED FY 06 LEVEL OF SERVICE

The Manager’s FY 06 proposed budget includes the reduction of \$1,000,000 from the \$3,874,057 FY 05 budget. The reduction in funding requires the elimination of 7 positions from the street sweeping program. The positions include 5 Motor Sweeper Operators, 1 Heavy Truck Driver II and 1 Utility Worker I.

The reduction of 7 positions in the street sweeping program will reduce residential street sweeping from once a month to once every other month. Residential streets posted with permanent “No Parking” street sweeping signs and Commercial streets will remain as currently scheduled. Commercial streets and posted residential streets generate high volumes of debris and tend to be in areas of greater environmental significance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Director, General Services Department

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Approved: Richard Mendes  
Deputy City Manager