

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2025-1

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Matt Carlucci

Date of Introduction: January 14, 2025

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, R, F, TEEU

Date of Analysis: January 16, 2025

Type of Action: Adoption of preliminary residential solid waste assessment rate; repeal of previous ordinance provisions; establishment of public hearing date; directions to Mayor

Bill Summary: The ordinance adopts a preliminary residential solid waste special assessment of \$30.40 per month (\$364.80 annually) for calendar year 2025 and repeals the current maximum rate of \$18 per month (\$216 annually) set by prior ordinances. It sets the required public hearing on the rate adjustment for the City Council meeting of May 27th. The ordinance directs the Mayor to provide an updated assessment roll and to provide the notifications to customers required by state law.

NOTE: see companion ordinance 2025-2 regarding a low income assessment reduction .

Background Information: The current solid waste fee was adopted in 2007 at \$3 per month (\$36 annually), to be increased by \$1 per month per year up to a maximum of \$10 per month (\$144 annually) in 2014. It was billed as a stand-alone fee by separate bill. In 2010, following a thorough study of City fees and the degree of their cost recovery, the Council enacted Ordinance 2010-216-E) increasing the solid waste fee to \$12.65 per month (\$151.80 per year) effective October 1, 2010. Ordinances 2010-446-E and 2010-673-E established the collection method via a non-ad valorem special assessment on the annual property tax bill and increased the maximum rate to \$18 per month (\$216 annually). The current assessment was sufficient to pay the cost for solid waste collection until FY17-18 when a subsidy was needed from the General Fund to cover the full cost of collection. Those subsidies, made in the form of annual loans from the General Fund to the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund, have continued and grown over the years. The amount of the loan stood at \$56.4 million at the end of fiscal year 2023/24.

Policy Impact Area: Solid waste fee

Fiscal Impact: The increased assessment would increase the fee revenue from \$43.5 million to \$105.5 million , absent any reductions that would result from the implementation of the proposed low income assessment reduction contemplated in Ordinance 2025-1.

Analyst: Clements