Recommendation From
Boynton Beach Financial Advisory Committee

Subject/Topic: Solid Waste – Residential Recycling Collection

Reviewed By: George Feldman

Recommendation (Specific Action Recommended): Eliminate Curb Side Recycling

Pros of Recommendation: This action would allow for a total cost reduction of approximately $475,000 annually. This could lead other to a reduction in the monthly garbage fee paid by the customer or a corresponding increase in the fund transfer from Solid Waste to the General Fund. No other pros.

Cons of Recommendation: There are a number of cons as follows:

1. Chapter 403 of the State Statutes created a goal of recycling of 75% of the waste stream by 2020. Without a local recycling program, the City would be unable to help meet this goal.

2. There has been expanded effort over the last two decades to encourage individual recycling efforts. The possible cut to local recycling shows that the recycling process has a cost to society.

3. Elimination of curb side recycling would force an addition to the solid waste stream. These additional materials would have to be disposed of in the landfills rather than recycled. These recyclable materials would be placed into the regular residential garbage cart for disposal thereby taking up additional volume in the cart. Elimination of recycling services is therefore not compatible with other service reduction initiatives such as reductions in frequency of collection. One cart would probably not be able to handle the added regular garbage and the addition of the recyclable materials.

4. The public might expect a rate reduction in the monthly water bill. The public may perceive reduced solid waste services to correlate with reduced solid waste costs, hence a rate reduction. This therefore would not benefit the General Fund deficit.

References (Staff, Documents, and Public): Discussion with Larry Quinn, Solid Waste Manager, Christine Roberts, Asst Direction of Public Works, and Jeffrey Livergood, Direction of Public Works

Impact on 2011/12 Budget: Savings of $475,000.

Impact on Out Year Budgets: Regular inflationary growth

Impact on Citizens: Those residents that would still choose to recycle would need to locate other venues, both private and public (County).

Impact on City Staff: Three staff positions will be eliminated. Bulk of savings is equipment and fuel.

Committee Vote Result: For: __0__ **Against**: __7__