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July 8, 2020

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Frank Abbate, County Manager

RE: Item L.1. Continue Current Contract with Waste Management

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on July 7, 2020, authorized you to continue with the current Contract with Waste Management that was competitively bid and agreed upon.

Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

for: Donna Scott
Kimberly Powell, Deputy Clerk

/ds

cc: Each Commissioner
County Attorney
Solid Waste Management Director
Finance
Budget



July 3, 2020

Mr. Euripides Rodriguez
Director
Brevard County Solid Waste Management Department
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Suite A118
Viera, FL 32940

Dear Mr. Rodriguez:

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Waste Management's front line workforce has continued to provide essential collection service to our Brevard County residents and businesses. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted society and commerce in myriad ways, and the waste services industry is no exception.

The pandemic has caused millions to lose their jobs, forced many to work from home, and the majority of residents continue to follow stay-at-home guidance. As a result, residential curbside volume among all waste streams continues to be extraordinarily high, meaning more trips to the landfill or recycling processing center and, then, returning to the route. If one route runs late on a service day, this route completes first thing the following morning, causing that day's routes to get a later start, and so forth through the week.

Waste Management has instituted additional precautions and safety measures to keep our drivers and residents safe. Despite these efforts, we are experiencing the effects of the recent spike in positive COVID-19 cases, with several drivers currently ill with the virus and/or in quarantine as a precautionary measure. A hiring freeze put in place at the onset of the pandemic has recently been lifted, but it will take some time to hire and train drivers for those open positions.

To assist with our driver needs, we have engaged drivers from our Orlando district who are here daily to help service Brevard County customers. We have also brought in additional drivers from our Corporate "Green Team" – specialized drivers from other parts of the country – to assist in Brevard County. These drivers are highly experienced, but new to the routes and not able to complete them as quickly as daily drivers.

While these efforts have helped, we continue to face a significant shortage of drivers to service our daily routes, contributing to routes running late. Nonetheless, we remain committed to ensuring the health and safety of the communities we serve. As per our meeting on July 1, 2020, garbage and yard waste collection needs to remain the priority for the health and safety of unincorporated Brevard



County. In order for us to maintain this priority, we are asking for your approval to temporarily suspend residential recycling collection service in the unincorporated County area.

With the increased volume described above, we also have seen levels of recycling contamination (non-recyclables) approach 50 percent, resulting in a considerable amount of material being landfilled. Per our discussion, in areas where carted garbage and recycling collection are on the same day, we can consider comingling collection in these areas with your approval. Section 4, Item D(9), of the Solid Waste Franchise Agreement prohibits the collector from "landfilling or improper disposing of any recyclable materials...except that under extraordinary conditions..." The COVID-19 pandemic certainly meets the standard of extraordinary conditions.

Please know we do not take this request lightly, as Waste Management continues to be committed to recycling and reducing contamination. However, we believe this temporary measure, which we anticipate lasting approximately 30 days, will allow us to complete daily routes, catch up on collecting the current high volume of curbside solid waste and yard waste, train additional drivers to fill in for sick/quarantined individuals, and ensure the health and safety priority of garbage and yard waste collection.

Thank you for considering our request, and please do not hesitate to contact me at (407) 832-3899 or mlewis3@wm.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Lewis', written in a cursive style.

Michael Lewis
Senior District Manager