



Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor

PLANNING COMMISSION

Wilbur E. "Bill" Cunningham, Chairman

STAFF REPORT



Thomas J. Stosur
Director

November 19, 2015

REQUEST: City Council Bill #15-0591/Solid Waste Management Plan For Baltimore City - Amendments

For the purpose of amending the City's Solid Waste Management Plan for 2013-2023 to include certain supplemental information required by the State; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to the Solid Waste Management Plan for Baltimore City. (Citywide)

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

STAFF: Alice Kennedy

PETITIONER(S): Department of Public Works

OWNER: Department of Public Works

SITE/GENERAL AREA: N/A

HISTORY

- The City of Baltimore last adopted a Solid Waste Management Plan by Resolution 14-019 on October 30, 2014
- On November 9, 2015 City Council Bill 15-0591 was introduced for the purpose of amending the Solid Waste Management Plan for 2013-2023 to include certain supplemental information required by the State. Afterwards the bill was referred to the Planning Department for action.

CONFORMITY TO PLANS

State law (Environment Article 9-503 and COMAR 26.03.03) requires each county and Baltimore City to adopt and maintain a comprehensive solid waste management plan that covers at least the succeeding 10-year period and be revised every three years.

The Solid Waste Management Plan for 2013-2023 is on the City of Baltimore website and is on file with the Department of Legislative Reference. The amendments proposed under City

Council Bill 15-0591 are highlighted in yellow to identify the State-required deletions or additions to the Plan. The affected portions of the Plan are attached to the legislative bill. By law, the amendments to the Plan must be approved by the Mayor and City Council before they can be submitted for approval to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

ANALYSIS

Solid waste planning is primarily a local responsibility. However, Federal and State laws and regulations control practices to protect public health and welfare. The recently adopted Solid Waste Management Plan for 2013-2023 conforms to those laws and describes how the Bureau of Solid Waste will collect, dispose of and treat the amount of solid waste that is projected to be generated over the prescribed 10-year period. Since the adoption of this Plan, the MDE requested that certain information be relocated within the Plan; that certain unnecessary or redundant information be deleted from the Plan; and that clarifying and new information be added to complete and update the Plan. While most of the amendments are not substantive and are technical in content, the following amendments are worth noting:

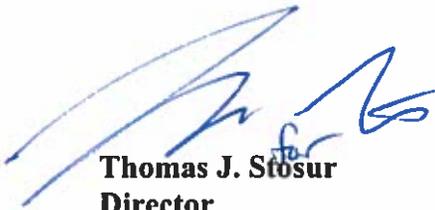
- MDE requested that the City quantify the amount of solid waste or recycling material collected by certain private facilities in 2011 and the anticipated life span of these private solid waste and recycling facilities (pages 43-47).
- Since adoption of the Plan, MDE has been working with two private solid waste facilities located in Baltimore that are currently going through a transition period, and requested that their information be updated – the planned relocation of Chesapeake Compost Works, Inc. from Curtis Avenue to Fort Armistead Road (page 45), and the application by TJP Recovery Processing Facility to MDE for a waste processing facility at their current location at Shannon Drive (page 62).
- During the 2014 Maryland General Assembly Session the Legislature passed a bill requiring that special event organizers add recycling as a service at special events hosted on public streets or at public sites. This new requirement has been added to the list of provisions that must be included in the solid waste comprehensive plans. MDE has therefore requested that a new section to be added to the Plan that describes the City's Special Event Recycling Plan (pages 39-41), which are supported by two new Appendices (G and H).

The Planning Department examined the full Solid Waste Management Plan for 2013-2023 that was presented to the Planning Commission in 2014. At that time the Plan was found to be consistent with other City policies and programs. The amendments proposed in City Council

Bill 15-0591 maintain that finding of consistency, and provide updated information that demonstrates the City's ability to meet its responsibilities for solid waste management, as required by State law.

NOTIFICATIONS

This agenda item was sent city-wide through the Planning Department's electronic mail system.



Thomas J. Stosur
Director