

Agenda Item 530

TESTIMONY

2:00 PM TIME CERTAIN

**FY 2016-17 SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING RATES/CHARGES**IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email
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Testimony to Portland City Council  
Residential Solid Waste and Recycling Rates  
May 19, 2016

187771

Good afternoon Mayor Hales and Commissioners. My name is Dave White. I am regional representative for the Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association. In that position, I assist and represent the Portland Haulers Association (PHA) and its members that provide solid waste and recycling collection services in the city.

Process:

- PHA members have worked cooperatively with city staff to provide the financial information that was analyzed by staff and the city's rate consultant. They appreciate the opportunity to engage in discussions with staff during the rate review process and the city's willingness to consider their input.
- PHA believes the rate review process is fair and results in rates that are reasonable for the ratepayers and haulers.

Efficiencies:

- This is the fourth year in a row that rates have remained flat or gone down.
- That is remarkable considering inflationary impacts, negative recyclable markets and that haulers are continuing to purchase expensive but energy efficient and clean operating trucks to meet the city's Clean Fleet requirements.
- PHA is pleased that the BPS has acknowledged that this year's proposed rate reduction is again a testament to the haulers becoming more efficient. That efficiency results in lower labor costs and downward pressure on rates.

Roll Carts:

- A big reason for this increased efficiency is that the industry has moved to automated trucks and roll carts for collection.
- In Portland, recycling, yard debris and around 80% of garbage collection service is in carts.
- To further increase our efficiencies and improve worker safety, PHA has proposed to BPS that garbage collection be fully carted by July 2017. We look forward to that discussion.

In closing: Portland's haulers have a many-decades-long tradition of commitment to providing excellent collection service to the residents of the city...and doing it in a way that produces sustainable results and operational safety. We appreciate that opportunity. I'd be happy to answer and questions.