

**Agenda Item:** 3.a

**Meeting Date:** February 19, 2026

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** City Commission

**Through:** Jennifer K. Bramley, City Manager

**From:** Sue Bartlett

**Date:** 2026-02-12

**Subject:** First Reading of Solid Waste Ordinance 26-01 amending Section 66-101 of Chapter 66 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Dunedin, Florida.

**Presenter(s):** Suzanne "Sue" Bartlett, Public Works Director; Michelle Monteclaro, Public Works Assistant Director; William Pickrum, Sanitation & Recycling Superintendent; and Thierry Boveri, Vice President, Raftelis.

**Staff Recommendation:** Motion to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 26-01 amending Section 66-101 of Chapter 66 of the City Code of Ordinances.

**Strategic Themes:** Infrastructure, Planning, and Growth.

**Boards & Committees:** Board of Finance (October 15 and November 19, 2025)

**Budget Impact:** The recommended rates adjustments are designed to stabilize the Solid Waste Fund and support achieving the targeted 15% operating reserve level.

**Past Action:** Solid Waste & Recycling Rate Discussion held during the December 2, 2025 Commission Workshop (Agenda Item #2.a).

**Next Action:** The Second Reading of Ordinance 26-01 is scheduled for March 19, 2026 Regular Commission Meeting

**Attachments:** [Exhibit A. Ordinance 26-01-Solid Waste Rates BMO Review Approved As To Form.pdf](#)  
[Exhibit B. Board of Finance Support Email.pdf](#)  
[Exhibit C. City of Dunedin Business Impact Statement \(SW\).pdf](#)

**Background:** During the December 2, 2025, Commission Workshop, Raftelis Consulting Services, Inc., (Raftelis) presented its financial findings and recommendations of the Solid Waste Division rate study. Raftelis was tasked with developing a ten-year fiscal sustainability

plan for the Solid Waste Division. They reviewed the current financial management plan and recommended future rate adjustments to align with the fund's financial requirements and needs. The City's Solid Waste Division operates as a self-sustaining enterprise fund. The recommendations provided by Raftelis are critical for addressing ongoing cost pressures, including annual increases in Pinellas County's tipping fees for waste disposal, the effects of high inflation on wages and benefits, and the rising operating expenses across the Solid Waste Industry.

The Public Works Department continues to implement efficiencies; at this time, six (6) Solid Waste vehicles have been auctioned with a return to the fund of \$71,292. Savings also include avoidance of the associated annual maintenance costs, estimated at \$132,000 yearly, as well as future capital replacement costs of those surplused reserve units. In addition, two (2) 'Sanitation Associate' positions will not be filled in FY26, and will be recommended for elimination in FY27. These efficiencies were completed in conjunction with the Solid Waste Rate Study in order to help reduce the extent of the necessitated rate adjustments.

Raftelis' findings and recommendations have identified the need to implement a five-year rate adjustment plan. The plan begins with an initial 2-year rate adjustment during which rates will increase more substantially, followed by a 3-year period of inflationary rate adjustments linked to the 'Consumer Price Index' (CPI) for the 'Trash Collection and Disposal Industry'. By implementing a rate increase on April 1st of fiscal year 2026, the fund will generate the revenue needed to align costs with service delivery, strengthen long-term fiscal stability, and limit the impact on rate payers over time.

The Dunedin Board of Finance (BOF) reviewed the study results and recommends the rate increases proposed for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 in order to restore positive projected cash reserves (See Exhibit B). If approved, the amended solid waste rates would take effect April 1, 2026, and remain in place through fiscal year 2030. Business Impact Statement is attached as Exhibit C.

As discussed at the December 2, 2025, Commission Workshop and in accordance with the consensus direction provided by the Commission, staff hereby recommend a motion to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 26-01, as detailed herein. A required Second Public Hearing of Ordinance 26-01 will be held on March 19, 2026.