

Agenda Item:

2.b

Meeting Date:

August 5, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: City Commission

Through: Jennifer K. Bramley, City Manager

From: Sue Bartlett

Date: 2025-07-30

Subject: Solid Waste Service Level to Unincorporated Pinellas County

Presenter(s): Suzanne "Sue" Bartlett, Public Works Director; and William "Bill" Pickrum, Solid Waste Superintendent

Staff Recommendation: Commission review and discussion of the recommended City of Dunedin Solid Waste Service Level Planned Exit for Unincorporated County Residents; providing Consensus Direction and Concurrence with implementation of staff's recommendations.

Strategic Themes: City Services, Good Governance

Boards & Committees: N / A

Budget Impact: N / A

Past Action: N / A

Next Action: Consensus direction and implementation of staff recommended exit plan.

Attachments: [A. Solid Waste PPT for 080525 Commission Workshop.pdf](#)
[B. Dunedin Planning Area \(DPA\) Map.pdf](#)
[C. SW Unincorporated Service Areas Map.pdf](#)

Background: Since 2000, the Solid Waste Division has offered a subscription-based collection service to single-family homes within unincorporated Pinellas County. Initially, this service was offered to support certain county neighborhoods with limited trash collection options, with the intent to increase city revenues. Currently, the Division serves 1,200 customers outside city limits, some of which are outside of our Planning Area. These areas are characterized by lower route density, with the customers dispersed throughout these zones, presenting operational challenges.

During the recent efficiency study evaluation of Public Works, one of the recommendations was related to the current practice of providing City solid waste service to unincorporated County areas. Specifically, "Recommendation #59" - Charge to recover the full cost of services provided to the unincorporated areas or discontinue service to the unincorporated neighborhoods and reduce resources required. The report conservatively projected annual savings of \$132,911 - \$166,139. Discontinuation of service to these areas would reduce two (2) Sanitation Associate positions, two (2) trucks from the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) Vehicle Replacement Plan (VRP), including contracted services for recycling, and associated disposal expenses. Our rate consultant, Raftelis, has considered these services in the projected rates to be presented to Commission later this fall.

The Public Works Department has developed an Exit Plan and Presentation which will outline for the Commission and community our recommendations and implementation plan. The exit plan provides for a robust communications plan, which includes sending out a 30-day Notice Letter to each affected customer, along with a list of approved and licensed haulers (that information is also posted and available on the Pinellas County website).

Our Communications Department has been collaborating with Solid Waste to ensure that clear and consistent communication is conveyed. The information will include instructions regarding how county residents can deactivate their existing city account, how to secure a return of their security deposit, and the date service will no longer be provided. The retrieval of city carts is estimated to take about 5 weeks, as staff recovers approximately 2,400 city carts from 1,200 county customers, and allows for our Utility Billing section to process the changes to these accounts.

As such, staff is seeking Commission consensus direction to proceed with the recommended exit strategy, thus reducing our associated costs for collection services within these county enclave areas. This shift will improve service efficiency and ensure that resources are allocated where they can achieve the greatest impact to our City residents. When the transition is complete, the routes for City customers will be optimized and a similar communications plan will be implemented to notify residents of any changes to their collection dates. These service level adjustments will enable a better alignment of resources with the primary focus to serve City of Dunedin residents, delivering the high-quality service they have come to expect.