

St. Paul City Council
15 Kellogg Blvd. West 310 City Hall
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Councilmembers,

My comments relate to Ordinance 22-44, setting the 2023 Garbage Collection rates.

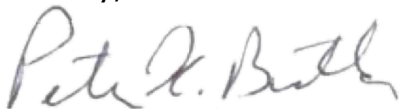
You are likely aware of the low utilization of the base-level bulky item service, which residents were charge approximately \$2.1 million with taxes (2021). I recommend that the 2023 charges for base-level bulky service reflect past years' usage.

Citywide, participating households disposed 16,881 bulk items in 2019 and 21,123 in 2020, which is an average disposal cost of \$125 per bulkie in 2019 and \$100 in 2020. Households disposing more than their base-level number of bulkies pay \$10 to \$35 for each additional item, excluding the 37.75% in taxes.¹

Assuming 25,000 bulky items are disposed at a median cost per item of \$20, the base-level bulky costs would be \$500,000. The total cost is \$688,750 with taxes.

You could reduce the 2023 rates by \$1.4 million under these assumptions.

Sincerely,



Peter K. Butler
1060 Grand Avenue, #401
St. Paul, MN 55105

Delivered to Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us & CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us
Cc: garbage@ci.stpaul.mn.us

¹ <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/garbage/residential-garbage/bulky-item-collection>. A large TV is the only item to cost \$55 for disposal.

2021 Charges for Base-Level Bulky Items

Collection Frequency	Cart Size (gallons)	Households by cart size	Annual Cost for Each Cart			Citywide Bulkie Costs
			Bulkies Charge per Cart	State & County Taxes	Total Bulkies Cost per Cart	
Every Other Week	35	5,074	\$15.84	\$5.98	\$21.82	\$110,715
Every Week	35	17,584	15.84	5.98	21.82	\$383,683
Every Week	64	29,147	23.88	9.01	32.89	\$958,645
Every Week	95	20,079	23.88	9.01	32.89	\$660,398
Totals	Not App.	71,884	Not App.	Not App.	Not App.	\$2,113,441

Data Sources

1. City of St. Paul – Department of Public Works, *2021 Rates Presentation to Council 10-21-20 FINAL*, tables on pages 4 & 5.

<https://stpaul.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=8847167&GUID=03366767-1DE4-4480-91D3-039F163034C3>

2021 Proposed Garbage Rates Published to Legal Ledger													
Cart Size	Collection			Bulkies	Disposal	Subtotal	CEC	MSWT	2021 Monthly Rates	2020 Monthly Rates	Quarterly Increase	% Diff.	2021 Quarterly Rate
	Non-Fuel (CPI 1.5%)	Fuel	Billing										
Sm EOW	\$ 8.43	\$ 0.92	\$ 1.99	\$ 1.32	\$ 1.67	14.33	\$ 4.01	\$ 1.40	\$ 19.74	\$ 19.20	\$ 0.54	3%	\$ 59.23
Sm W	\$ 10.12	\$ 1.11	\$ 1.99	\$ 1.32	\$ 2.16	16.70	\$ 4.68	\$ 1.63	\$ 23.01	\$ 22.43	\$ 0.58	3%	\$ 69.04
Medium	\$ 11.04	\$ 1.21	\$ 1.99	\$ 1.99	\$ 6.72	22.95	\$ 6.43	\$ 2.24	\$ 31.62	\$ 31.02	\$ 0.60	2%	\$ 94.87
Large	\$ 11.04	\$ 1.21	\$ 1.99	\$ 1.99	\$ 8.26	24.49	\$ 6.86	\$ 2.39	\$ 33.74	\$ 33.14	\$ 0.60	2%	\$101.23

2021 Proposed Garbage Rates Published to Legal Ledger							
Cart Size	Carts	2018/2019 Blended * Quarterly Rates	2020 Rates (Quarterly, after taxes)	2021 Proposed (Quarterly, after taxes)	2021 Quarterly Increase	2021 Annual Increase	Total 2021 Increase
Sm EOW	5074	\$ 60.84	\$ 57.60	\$ 59.23	\$ 1.63	\$ 6.51	\$ 33,024.47
Sm W	17584	\$ 70.32	\$ 67.29	\$ 69.04	\$ 1.75	\$ 6.99	\$122,886.96
Medium	29147	\$ 96.08	\$ 93.09	\$ 94.87	\$ 1.78	\$ 7.11	\$207,193.40
Large	20079	\$ 102.44	\$ 99.45	\$ 101.23	\$ 1.78	\$ 7.11	\$142,732.91
Total Carts	71884					Total Increase	\$505,837.74

Amount Residents see on 2021 Quarterly Bill

- 35 Gallon Every Other Week - \$57.23
- 35 Gallon Cart - \$69.04
- 64 Gallon Cart - \$94.87
- 96 Gallon Cart - \$101.23

State and Ramsey Co. Taxes = 37.75%

- State of Minnesota = 9.75%
- Ramsey County = 28%

2. City of St. Paul – Department of Public Works, *Saint Paul Recycling and Garbage Services – Annual 2020 Guide for Residents*, page 4
<https://www.stpaul.gov/sites/default/files/Media%20Root/Public%20Works/Annual%20Guide%202020.pdf>

2019 All In Program at a Glance:

- » 28% of material collected from residential 1-4 unit properties was recycled or reused.
- » 23,865 tons was collected from residents and at the recycling drop-off center for recycling.
- » 454 tons of material was recycled or disposed of properly through the citywide drop-off events.
- » 1,275 tons of residential yardwaste and 506 tons of household organics were collected for composting.
- » 56,484 tons of garbage was collected from more than 71,000 households; 16,881 bulky items were collected.

3. City of St. Paul – Department of Public Works, *Saint Paul Recycling and Garbage Services – Annual 2021 Guide for Residents*, page 3
<https://www.stpaul.gov/sites/default/files/Media%20Root/Public%20Works/Annual%20Guide%202020.pdf>

