



City of Omaha  
Jean Stothert, Mayor

**Office of the Mayor**  
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July 17, 2019

Dear President Jerram and City Council Members,

More than a month ago, I requested information in writing about your preferences for the solid waste collection contract and what the Council will agree on and support. Two Council members responded to my request. Now, with time running out to make a decision, it remains unclear if there is agreement on the level of service we will provide or the preferred contractor.

I will resubmit my recommendation for FCC Environmental and a two-cart collection system for your consideration on the July 23 agenda. The agenda will also include three Amendments of the Whole; the FCC three-cart separate yard waste bid, and West Central Sanitation's bids for the two-cart comingled yard waste system and three-cart separate yard waste system. A public hearing will follow on July 30 and the vote will be August 13.

The FCC 3-cart separate yard waste collection option will require a tax increase. I will sign only a contract with FCC Environmental and I will not support or sign a contract that requires a tax increase.

**We have responded to all requests made by the Council:**

- **The Request for Bids (RFB) for the Spring and Fall yard waste collection contract will be advertised today, July 17. Bids will be opened July 31, providing the range of costs you asked for well before the August 13 vote.**
- **We asked FCC Environmental and West Central Sanitation to extend their bids by 60 days and both agreed.**
- **I have met with representatives of West Central Sanitation and FCC Environmental.**
- **We will propose amending Section 33-46 of the Omaha Municipal Code to reduce the number of residents in a household to qualify for additional curbside collection capacity. Currently, the number of residents is eight. We propose a reduction to five. This will address your concerns about large families that produce larger quantities of waste each week. We will provide a third cart to homeowners who qualify under this Section at no additional cost. This amendment will also be on the July 23 agenda.**

It is imperative that you choose one of the four options on the July 23 agenda. After three years of study and planning, we must have a decision. The next contractor needs 14-16 months to prepare for a successful start.

The research, data and citizen input shows a 2-cart system meets the needs of the majority of citizens.

I am asking again that you approve our recommendation for the FCC two-cart comingled yard waste system with additional curbside collection in the Spring and Fall during peak seasons, and a third cart at no additional charge for our citizens who need the additional service.

Sincerely,



Jean Stothert  
Mayor, City of Omaha