



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF ADJUSTMENT TO THE CITY'S SOLID WASTE FEES

This Notice is available Spanish and Lebanese Arabic at www.cityofbell.org

8/2/2024

The City of Bell will hold a public hearing to consider an increase to solid waste fees. The public hearing will be held at a regular meeting of the City Council at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at the Bell Community Center, 6250 Pine Ave., Bell, CA 90201

Solid waste disposal services in the City are performed by Consolidated Disposal Services (Republic). The City has negotiated new rates for solid waste, recycling and organics collection services in the City. The new rates are proposed to be effective beginning October 1, 2024. The rates are proposed to be adjusted each year on October 1st. The first four adjustments have been agreed upon by the City and Republic. Beginning on October 1, 2028, the rates will be adjusted each year based on increases in disposal costs and inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index for Water Sewer Trash. **The proposed new rates for the most common levels of solid waste collection service are shown below in the table. A complete rate sheet for all solid waste collection services is available at the City's website at <https://www.cityofbell.org/?NavID=160>**

Proposed Rates

Service Description	Current Rate	Rate Effective				
		October 1, 2024	October 1, 2025	October 1, 2026	October 1, 2027	October 1, 2028
Residential 96 Gallon	\$15.96	\$19.75	\$24.10	\$27.78	\$30.93	(a)
Commercial (3 cy bin once per week)	\$173.56	\$231.70	\$273.39	\$315.05	\$350.78	(a)

(a) Rates adjusted based on increases in disposal and inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index for Water Sewer Trash

INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEW FEES

1. **Background:** Republic has been the franchised waste hauler for the City since July 1, 2012. The City's contract for Republic's services must be renegotiated and restated due to new State regulatory mandates and the negotiation of enhanced solid waste and recycling services to all City residential and commercial refuse customers.
2. **Basis upon which the charges were calculated:** Refuse service rates were negotiated between the City and Republic for solid waste collection services, which rates represent the maximum amount that may be charged to ratepayers for refuse services. Your refuse bills compensate Republic for the costs of providing refuse services, including all labor, equipment, materials, supplies, supervision and all other items necessary for Republic's performance of the City's solid waste and recycling collection. The proposed adjustment in rates reflects additional services to be provided by Republic, including without limitation, regular inflationary cost increases, increased costs for providing State-required organics diversion programs and compliance with other recent changes in State law, and major changes in the costs of providing recycling services as a result of certain adverse developments in the recycling markets, enhanced bulky waste and community clean-up programs, and related programs outlined in the contract between the City and Republic. Under Article XIID of the California Constitution (Proposition 218), the annual rate adjustments (percentage change in disposal costs) are only authorized for a maximum period of five (5) years, commencing October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2039, unless a further public hearing and Proposition 218 notice and protest process is held before the City Council.
3. **Reason for the charges:** The maximum rates for solid waste collection and recycling services are for the operation and administration of the refuse disposal and recycling programs to be implemented by Republic in accordance with a new franchise contract addressing developments in State law, enhanced community services, covering certain governmental fees, capital costs for providing refuse services, and increased disposal charges incurred by Republic. Reasons for the proposed new rate structure also pertain to regular inflationary cost increases and changes. Further, proposed rate adjustments spread over a five-year period are designed to offset Republic's regular costs of inflation each year.



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The date and time of the public hearing is set not less than 45 days after the mailing of this Notice of Public Hearing of the proposed rate adjustment to the record owners or tenants of each identified commercial or residential parcel upon which the rates are proposed to be changed. Any interested person(s), including persons owning or renting property receiving solid waste collection services may present a written protest to the City Council on the proposed rate adjustment. The City Council shall consider all protests against the proposed rate, and only written protests of property owners and tenants can be counted to determine whether a majority protest to the proposed adjustments exists.

WRITTEN PROTEST PROCEDURE

A property owner or tenant may file a written protest to the proposed increases in one of the following ways:

1. Through the United States mail.
2. Hand delivery/Deposit with the City Clerk's office at City Hall, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday.
3. Hand delivery to the City Clerk at the date and time of the public hearing on September 25, 2024.

Faxed or emailed protests will not be counted. Written protests must be *received* (not postmarked) by the City Clerk no later than 3:00 p.m. on September 25, 2024, unless hand delivered at the date and time of the public hearing. Address written protests as follows:

City of Bell, City Clerk
c/o Written Protest
6330 Pine Ave.
Bell, CA 90201

Each written protest must include the name of the parcel owner or tenant, service address or assessor's parcel number for the parcel served, and the parcel owner's or tenant's signature. No more than one protest per parcel will be counted.

In the event of a majority protest, the proposed rate adjustment shall not be adopted. A majority protest shall exist only in the event that a majority of owners or tenants of the identified parcels submit written protests against the proposed rate adjustment to the City of Bell.

If approved, this rate would be effective upon City Council approval and would be periodically adjusted in accordance with the provisions of the solid waste collection franchise agreement.

Questions or comments regarding this Notice, or the proposed rate adjustment or the adjustment methodology in the Franchise Agreement may be directed to:

Javier Ochiqui (jochiqui@cityofbell.org)
Assistant to the City Manager
City of Bell
P: (323) 588-6211, Ext. 2608