



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Wildwood Commission Consents to Solid Waste Collection Rates**  
*New Residential and Commercial Pricing to Become Effective October 1*

Wildwood's city commission has agreed to new rates proposed by the city's contracted solid waste collection contractor, WM, formerly known as Waste Management.

During a presentation at the commission's August 23, 2023, meeting, Doug McCoy, WM's senior district manager, explained the residential collection rate has increased an average of 1.8 percent annually since the company first contracted with the city in 2010, while the commercial rate has increased an average of 1.1 percent each year.

He provided examples of cost increases WM experienced between March 2021 and March 2022, including 25 percent for starting wages, 30 percent for collection trucks, 51 percent for plastic refuse carts/cans, 88 percent for steel containers, and 225 percent for the steel to repair containers and trucks.

In preparation for the company's five-year contract renewal, McCoy proposed a 3.2 percent increase for residential customers starting October 1 this year, from the current \$19.36 per month to \$19.98, with an additional 6.4 percent increase to \$21.25 effective October 1, 2024. From that point, he explained, the annual increase would be based on the Consumer Price Index, but no less than 2 percent and no greater than 6 percent.

His proposal also included a 17.4 percent increase for commercial customers starting October 1 this year, from the current \$4.03 per cubic yard to \$4.73, with additional annual increases to \$5.53 and \$6.33 per cubic yard in 2024 and 2025. To mitigate the effect on small businesses, McCoy recommended a new option of once-per-week collection for customers who do not need the minimum twice-per-week pick-up currently required.

During his presentation, McCoy explained that even with these proposed increases, rates would fall below those of many nearby municipalities and utility districts.

After consideration and discussion, the five commissioners agreed to the proposal. They will vote on WM's contract renewal with the updated rates at the commission's September 11 meeting.

Residents and businesses receiving service from WM through an account with the City of Wildwood should call 352-330-1336 with any questions about the rates or to modify a collection schedule based on the new once-per-week commercial customer option.

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