



THE CITY OF KEY WEST

Post Office Box 1409 Key West, FL 33041-1409 (305) 809-3700

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jim Scholl, City Manager

Cc: Greg Veliz, Asst. City Manager

FROM: John Paul Castro, Utilities Director

DATE: August 7, 2017

SUBJECT: **Authorizing a \$305.63 Annual Solid Waste Residential User Fee Charge and a \$157.61 Tipping Fee for the City's Solid Waste Annual Rate Resolution for FY 2018**

Action statement:

This is the Solid Waste Annual Rate Resolution that is required in the process of billing for the solid waste utility as non-ad valorem assessments on the property tax bill. It will represent a decrease that will establish the annual service charge at \$305.63 annually and a Tipping Fee of \$157.61.

Background:

The City Commission of Key West, Florida, has enacted Ordinance No. 13-09, which authorizes the re-imposition of annual Solid Waste Service Assessments for Solid Waste collection and disposal services, facilities or programs against real residential property specifically benefited by the City's Solid Waste Management Services.

The City Commission also establishes the solid waste rates for our residents each fiscal year. Staff and our financial rate consultant, Arcadis U.S., have analyzed in detail the solid waste utility financials.

Purpose and Justification:

In setting the FY 2018 budget, the City plans on accomplishing the following goals:

- Fund our solid waste and recycling curbside collection, and the MSW hauling service from the Transfer Station.
- Continue implementation of our new Solid Waste Master Plan to improve our City's recycling rate and better manage our utility.

Key to the Caribbean – Average yearly temperature 77° F.

- Maintain the City's landfill and successful operation of the City's Transfer Station
- Implement reserves for disaster collection and haul out and a long term capital reserve

After the preliminary assessment notice was approved, notices were sent by mail to Key West property owners who acquired new units or had adjustments. These notices informed the property owners of the public hearing for final approval to be held at the September 6th City Commission Meeting. They also included a maximum rate that could only be exceeded if approved by the Commission, unless notices are sent by mail to all those paying the user fee. The rates included on these notices was:

FY 2018 - \$305.63
Max Rate over the next years- \$393.08

An advantage of having the utility billing on the property tax roll is that residents have the opportunity to receive a discount on their utility user fees through early payment of property taxes.

Options:

- 1) The City may choose to change the solid waste budget from current levels. This option is not recommended by City Staff or our consultants.
- 2) The City can approve a \$305.63 annual residential solid waste rate fee and a Tipping Fee of \$157.61 for FY 2018.

Another advantage of the utility billing on the property tax roll is that residents have the opportunity to receive a discount on their utility user fees through early payment of property taxes.

Financial Impact:

The financial impact of this proposed increase would be as follows:

	FY 2017 Budget (current)	Proposed FY 2018 Budget	Increase
Residential Rate	\$305.63(per year)	\$305.63(per year)	-\$0.00/yr.
Tipping Fee	\$157.61(per Ton)	\$157.61(per Ton)	-\$0.00/Ton

Recommendation:

Staff recommends option #2, approving an annual rate assessment keeping the annual residential rate at a total of \$305.63 annually and the Tipping Fee to \$157.61.