

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



TO: Jim Scholl
FROM: Community Services
DATE: October 25, 2011
SUBJECT: Street Sweeping Program

Action statement:

City of Key West City Commission directed City Staff to explore implementing a street sweeping program for areas of Key West impacted by intense use of on-street parking and the mixture of commercial and residential uses. The goal is to decrease the amount of trash and organic debris entering our storm drains as well as improving visibility of street markings. It will also have a positive effect of promoting a cleaner Key West.

Community Service Staff has designed a program to clean opposite sides of streets monthly in rotation. Streets curb and gutters will be cleaned with a vacuum sweeper after sidewalks cleared with blowers. It will be a zoned approach with post mounted signs displaying days and times for no parking. Vehicles that do not comply will be towed according to the City's tow rotation contract with Parking enforcement assistance.

Background:

Currently the City of Key West has a street sweeping program that provides for sweeping the sidewalks and streets of the Duval Commercial Corridor daily. Additionally, all City streets are swept approximately 3 times per year by vacuum trucks. They sweep the travel lanes and existing curb and gutters where not obstructed by parked vehicles. There is also current contract with Toppino's and Sons for the maintenance of the City right of way encompassing mainly New Town.

There has been a reoccurring desire to institute a street sweeping program to clean the curb and gutters in the historic district of Key West. Approximately 10 years ago, the City implemented a similar street sweeping program. Reports from staff indicate it failed mainly because of the reluctance to tow vehicles in violation and inability to meet cleaning schedule.

This current plan seeks to learn from past attempts and model best practices of street sweeping programs from other urban areas.

Recommendation:

Community Service will begin a six month pilot program from Whitehead to Simonton including the 400 and 500 blocks of cross streets of the Duval Commercial Corridor, plus Caroline, Front and Greene.

The hours of cleaning will be 6:00 AM to 9:00 AM during weekdays of the first week of the month.

There will be post mounted signs installed at the beginning and end of blocks indicating which day and hours parking will be prohibited. On days that cannot be swept because of festival events or other unforeseen delays, Community Service will attempt to provide a maximum of 24 hour notice by covering the signs.

With commencement, there will be Public Service Announcements sent to all media outlets explaining the pilot program. There will be a pamphlet on the City's website that can be printed by businesses and guesthouses to display for their patrons. Some attempts to educate residents such as door hangers and notes on windshields will be used, but these efforts cannot be maintained long term and will end soon after the beginning. The only permanent notice will be with post mounted signs and website pamphlets.

After these advertising efforts, Community Service will provide one street vacuum sweeper truck, leaf blower to clear sidewalks and Parking Enforcement will provide assistance for the coordination of tows. They will sweep one side of each block per month.

After an initial 6 month successful pilot program, this program will be expanded to encompass most of the Historic District on streets where curb and gutter exist.

The plan is to have a dedicated 3 man team continuously sweeping during weekdays so all streets in the Historic District are cleaned once per month.

The hours of cleaning the Residential Areas will be 9AM to 3PM to minimize impact of residents.

Financial impact:

The pilot program cost will be absorbed by current City budget for a 3 man crew. This crew will consist of a vacuum truck operator, and general labor and parking enforcement to assist towing. They are expected to clean one side of 10 blocks per day. The Pilot test area will include approx. 58 blocks.

The pilot program will cost \$25,000 in signage. Each sign post, hardware and sign panel and concrete cost \$180. Labor to install these signs will be provided by Community Service and is expected to take 3 months.

Permanent Program

After the successful pilot program the costs associated with this program will increase with the creation of a permanent full time program. Some of the costs are as follows:

Purchase on an additional vacuum street sweeper for \$250,000. Purchase of additional blower equipment at \$1000.00.

\$61,000 for additional signage.

\$5,000 per year in consumable equipment supplies.

3 additional full time employees; two Community Service and one Parking Enforcement.

Anticipated Conflicts:

With any such program there will be conflicts. Some anticipated conflicts anticipated include:

-Restaurants will have concerns about dust from the sweeping interfering with their outside dining.

-The City will need to be consistent with towing requirements. The failure of past programs came in part people no longer moving their vehicles because they viewed other vehicles not being towed.

-Although City Ordinance requires vehicles move every 3 days, some residents have become accustomed to parking for longer periods – while out of town or during illness. They will have to be more vigilant about compliance or risk being towed. We anticipate some negative feedback these residents.

-Some visitors to guesthouses will park without being aware of the sweeping schedule and may be towed. The online brochure will help if guesthouses will display them.

-The City will have to be committed to the schedule and the commitment of resources to this program. If the block anticipates the sweeping crew to come and they do not clean as scheduled because of resources being pulled for other projects or equipment failures, the residents will no longer move their vehicles.

-The tow companies may be overwhelmed, particularly at the beginning, with the number of vehicles that need to be towed. The City may provide staging areas where

towed vehicles can be stored temporarily until the tow company can move them to their yard. Otherwise, we may have 30 minute delays between tows.

-Only one side of the street can be cleaned at a time to lessen the impact of finding parking for residents during the time their curb is swept.