

VACUUM LEAF COLLECTION 2022

CHALLENGES AND OPTIONS

September 13, 2022

Environmental Quality and Public Works Committee



LEXINGTON

Agenda

- Labor challenges
- Equipment challenges
- Services challenges
- Schedule challenges
- Costs



Labor Challenges

Fall 2021

- S&R had a 20% vacancy rate in civil service positions
- Seasonal positions averaged 8 per day compared to 20 per day in 2019
- Other divisions also faced labor challenges and could not support

Fall 2022

- S&R currently has a 20% vacancy rate in civil service positions
- Federal requirements for CDL became more restrictive in February 2022
- Historic unemployment rate



Equipment Challenges

- Rear loading garbage trucks are more efficient
 - 1 garbage truck, 3 staff = 3 dump trucks, 9 staff
 - **Since 2021, 3 rear loading garbage trucks have been red-lined**
- Dump trucks slow down the process and require additional coordination for leaf disposal
- New equipment will take over 1 year to acquire



Service Challenges

- Historically, staffing and available equipment allowed for up to 10,500 households weekly
 - Had more staff with 5 rear loading garbage trucks
- Estimated capacity for Fall 2022
 - Would require most of S&R staff, shutting down most other functions* of the division
 - *30% pothole repair; no street, trail, or bike lane sweeping; concrete repair, manhole repair and rehab; forestry maintenance; road marking and striping; asphalt repair; contractor oversight reduced to 25%
 - 5,000 households per week with 1 rear loading garbage truck
 - Will require longer collection time



Schedule Challenges

- Using the historical 7-week schedule, without challenges, Fall 2022 would look like:
 - November 7th – December 20th (7 weeks)
 - Could be later depending on weather and collection quantities but snow response takes priority, especially in January when snow chances increase
- With existing challenges, proposing to collect 5,000 households per week
 - Completion could take 15 weeks
 - November 7th – February 13th, which is not realistic



Costs

- FY2022 budget was \$918,465
- FY2022 actual expenditures was \$649,068
 - Less spent on personnel and vehicle repair/maintenance
- FY2023 budget is \$805,211
 - Republic Services current contract = \$150,000
 - To service one quadrant
 - Missed opportunity costs when S&R staff are assigned to leaf collection



Key Challenges Summary

- More equipment and staff is needed to run this program successfully
 - 1 rear loading garbage truck available
- Collection could take up to 15 weeks to complete
- S&R has to utilize nearly the entire division to make up for shortfalls, stopping most other functions
 - Overqualified staff doing leaf collection
 - Leaves 1 pothole crew (out of 3)
 - Leaves 1 project manager (out of 4) for the inspection of about 6 million dollars in paving



2022 Collection Options

1. Provide service with existing LFUCG staffing and contractor area
 - Longer collection period to February 13th
 - Incomplete collection likely
 - Closing down most of other S&R's operations
2. Expand Republic Service contract area
 - Republic would not service certain areas
 - Contract costs will increase
 - Republic requesting an extended multi-year contract to continue in subsequent years
 - Impact to collection schedule yet to be determined



Yard Waste Alternatives

- Existing alternatives
 - Direct haul to Haley Pike Landfill by the resident;
 - Pay a private landscaper/hauler;
 - Use Yard Waste bin;
 - Use biodegradable bags; coupons increased in 2022;
 - Mulch with mower and leave in place;
 - Backyard composting (bins discounted for workshop participants).
- Expanded alternatives
 - Waive fee for a second grey bin
 - Advertise environmentally friendly alternatives



Questions?