



## Request for City Council Committee Action

**Date:** June 13, 2002

**To:** Transportation and Public Works Committee

**Referral to:** Ways and Means Committee

**Prepared or Submitted by:** Susan Young, Director, Solid Waste and Recycling

**Approved by:** David Sonnenberg, Director of Public Works, City Engineer

**Subject:** Authorization to hire one Sentenced to Service crew from Hennepin County

**Presenters in Committee :** Susan Young

**Recommendation:** Approve increase in contract amount of \$56,000 from Fund 664 to Hennepin County Sentenced to Service

### **Financial Impact** (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget, but existing revenues will cover appropriation
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Other financial impact (Explain):
- Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

### **Background/Supporting Information**

The Division of Solid Waste and Recycling collects Problem Materials (PM) from our residential customers. PM include those items which are 50% or more metal, and include refrigerators, air conditioners, stoves, lawn mowers, bicycles, microwaves, computers, swing sets, etc. The Division "processes" these items before sale to scrap vendors by removing hazardous parts or constituents from the items. Over the years, increased regulation by the State and Hennepin County have required more and more

processing of PM before they can be sold as scrap. Examples of processing include removal of capacitors and resistors from microwaves, removal of fluorescent lights from ovens and ranges, removal of switches from washers and dryers, drilling and draining of lawn mower and snowblower gas and oil tanks, removal of tires from bicycle rims, etc. Solid Waste and Recycling Workers in the division typically perform these tasks, however, as the PM stream has increased over time these individuals are often diverted from processing, to collection of materials. Unprocessed PM have accumulated in the yard at 2710 Pacific, leading to operational inefficiency, lack of space, and creating an eyesore from the river.

It would be cost effective to hire a Hennepin County Sentenced to Service crew to perform the mundane and non-skilled processing of the PM. This would free up skilled Division workers to perform collection functions and to perform the processing functions, such as removal of Freon from refrigerators and air conditioners, which required advanced training and licensing. No Solid Waste and Recycling workers would be displaced by this contract; PM would be processed more cost effectively and the increased tonnage of materials being collected from our customers could be handled more quickly. The money ( not to exceed \$56,000) will come from the Solid Waste Fund (664), operating budget of the Problem Material Cost Center.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Division of Solid Waste and Recycling be authorized to contract with Hennepin County Sentenced to Service for one crew, with Supervisor, to process Problem Materials at the 2710 Pacific location.