BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON

100 BELVIDERE AVENUE • WASHINGTON, NEW JERSEY 07882-1426

PHONE: (908) 689-3600 www.washingtonboro-nj.org **FAX: (908) 689-9485**

September 8, 2020

Re: Upcoming changes to garbage collection

Dear Property Owner:

As you may have heard, the Borough of Washington will no longer be contracting with a third party for the collection and disposal of solid waste beginning January 1st, 2021. This decision by the Borough Council was largely driven by the extreme price hikes that many New Jersey municipalities have faced in recent years due to a lack of competition among solid waste haulers, a collapse of overseas markets for recyclable material and other factors. West Milford Township in Passaic County will see an increase of $1 million in 2020 alone for solid waste collection and disposal. A link to this and other articles regarding increases and proposed changes to municipal solid waste operations across the state is enclosed- the articles will also be posted on our social media page and website soon.

In response to this impending crisis the Borough Council began examining alternatives to contracting with a third party for collection and disposal of solid waste approximately two years ago. After investigating the options fully, the Council voted to provide the Department of Public Works with the equipment and staffing needed to collect and dispose of solid waste in addition to their other duties. Residents and eligible businesses will see an increase in the solid waste services offered by the Department of Public Works in 2021 including:

- **Disposal of 33% more household garbage per week.**
- **Large and durable 95 gallon rolling garbage and recycling carts provided by the Borough.**
- **Disposal of small bulk items with regular weekly garbage.**
- **Pickup of large bulk items once per month including properly prepared construction waste.**
- **Single stream recycling each week (no sorting of cans and bottles/paper and cardboard).**
- **Pickup of yard waste INCLUDING branches up to 4" in diameter weekly April to December.**
- **Self-service drop-off of residential yard waste at the DPW/Wastewater Treatment Complex.**

In addition to the increase in the level of service offered, which far exceeds the services offered by privately contracted solid waste haulers in our neighboring municipalities, the Borough will also fully control solid waste collection and disposal from start to finish. Any problems with solid waste services will be addressed and corrected immediately and directly by the Borough Manager and Department of Public Works Supervisor rather than through a third-party contractor.

In the coming months property owners will receive a mailing which will provide further detail on the changes to collection and disposal of solid waste as well as changes to the regulations. The Borough will also release a short instructional video via social media, Nixle alerts and the Borough website. Please monitor all three for this important information, and if you aren't currently signed up for Nixle alerts please do so by texting our zip code – 07882 to the number 888777 which will automatically opt you in for all text alerts sent by the Borough.

Garbage and recycling carts will be delivered directly to property owners in December with additional literature explaining the changes to solid waste services. It is important that the carts not be utilized for solid waste until 2021 as the current contractor's trucks will not work with the carts and any waste placed in them for disposal before 2021 will not be picked up. In addition, property owners should retain their

current garbage cans as these can and should be used in order to hold yard waste and/or any recyclable material in excess of that which fits in the provided 95 gallon recycling cart.
These changes to solid waste services will help to keep the Borough of Washington ahead of the impending price shocks which many municipalities are dealing with by having greater control over the entire process and greater accountability to management and taxpayers. For any questions regarding these changes please continue to monitor our official social media page @WashBoroWarren on Facebook, the Borough website, and Nixle Alerts by texting 07882 to 888777, or contact the Borough Manager at (908) 689-3600 x120 or **manager@washingtonboro-nj.org** .

Sincerely,

David Higgins
Mayor

Ethel Conry
Deputy Mayor

Louann Cox
Councilwoman

Chelsea DuChemin
Councilwoman

Josephine Noone
Councilwoman

Keith Norris
Councilman

Cynthia Valle
Councilwoman

Enclosures:

https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/passaic/west-milford/2019/11/13/west-milford-nj-trash-collection-cost-double-2-2-million-2020/2578491001/

https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/bergen/mahwah/2020/02/27/mahwah-nj-wants-do-its-trash-collection-cut-pickups-once-week/4868788002/

https://www.tapinto.net/towns/west-orange/sections/government/articles/west-orange-council-approves-refuse-and-recycling

https://www.tapinto.net/towns/roxbury/sections/green/articles/recycling-market-crash-hits-roxbury-blue-diamond-bills-town

https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2020/01/11/national-recycling-crisis-hits-hard-western-massachusetts/cn6o05CAvXmYzwyqWFCniJ/story.html