



I want to update you on the status of our trash collection and financial savings that we have made over the last several months.

As you may know, our DPW employees work out of two new semi-automated trash trucks, and we are picking up trash the way it used to be picked up. We have eliminated running each route twice a day, resulting in a financial gain of more than \$20,000 in fuel. We no longer pick up commercial trash for free, which was costing the city thousands of dollars and hours of manpower each year.

Our city is now charging for heavy trash and brush pick up, which could yield an additional \$12,000 in revenue for sewage works. These services were previously delivered for free at a considerable cost to local residents.

Because these are not core services, we believe it was more fair to institute a user fee than to ask all residents to pay more. We've also worked hard to make sure the trash collection system is more accountable.

In 2007, the city of Beech Grove distributed trash totes to each residential property to clean up loose trash and enable automated removal. From its inception until February 2012, the city spent almost \$120,000 purchasing totes and other automated accessories without any contribution from residential users. The city had no record of any tote distribution or location.

We were troubled by this lack of oversight, so we recently conducted an inventory that resulted in a list of 82% of the totes located throughout our city. This is a huge improvement that will enable us to track totes in the future.

Last year, we passed an ordinance that requires citizens who want new trash totes to pay a fee not to exceed the cost of the tote. By doing this, the city of Beech Grove has not spent one penny on additional trash totes.

These are just a couple of examples that illustrate how we are governing more responsibly by reducing costs to all taxpayers and making sure we're spending money efficiently and effectively without a reduction in services.

In the coming months, we'll unveil programs designed to prepare vacant properties for redevelopment and ownership, as well as alley clean up and enforcement of junk and abandoned vehicles throughout our city.

It's a pleasure serving you as your Mayor and I look forward to continued progress for the city of Beech Grove.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis B. Buckley
Mayor
City of Beech Grove