

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 1, 2007

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #78: RESIDENTIAL REFUSE COLLECTION FEE

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This memorandum is to clarify City solid waste services funded by the residential refuse collection fee and services funded by the General Fund relative to Parkfairfax as a result of testimony at the Tuesday, April 24, 2007 public hearing on the real estate property tax rate.

The residential refuse collection fee is charged on the real estate tax bill for all eligible homeowners who receive City refuse collection services. Homeowners who are eligible for real estate tax relief are exempt from the fee. The fee rate is set at the level necessary to recover the direct cost of weekly residential refuse collection, residential recycling collection and annual one-time spring clean-up collections, which are services only provided to City refuse collection customers. The rate proposed for FY 2008 is \$264 per household. The fee does not include the cost of leaf collection, which is funded by General Fund revenues and provided on all City public streets. Nor does it include the cost of recycling drop-off centers, which are also funded by the General Fund and available to all residents.

Parkfairfax has opted to contract with a private collection company for refuse and recycling collection rather than receive City service. The homeowners in the community do not pay the residential refuse collection fee and do not receive weekly refuse or recycling collection or curbside spring clean-up collection. City services that are provided to Parkfairfax through General Fund tax revenues include vacuum leaf collection on all public streets and one-time annual white goods pick-up from a designated drop-off and collection point in the neighborhood. Parkfairfax also contracts with a private company for leaf collection.