

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 31, 2010

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 35 : TRASH CAN AND TREE FEES

This is in response to a request from Councilman Krupicka regarding the revenue impact of eliminating the requirement that small businesses pay the trash can and tree fee.

Prior to June 2009, new Special Use Permit applicants were required on a case specific basis to make a \$250 contribution to the Living Landscape Fund and/or either a \$575 contribution to a trash can maintenance fund or \$1150 for a new trash can. In June 2009, Council approved a policy requiring a single lump sum contribution of \$500 to a joint infrastructure fund for street trees and trash cans. The contribution applies only to new SUPs, and there is no charge for modifications to existing SUPs. There is additional information regarding the policy change in Docket #32 from the June 9, 2009, Council meeting.

The change appears to have been revenue neutral. Two years ago, the City collected \$18,400 in these fees, which dropped to \$10,000 last year due to the slowing economy. From the time the new policy was implemented in June 2009 until January 2010, the City collected around \$6,000, which projects to between \$10,000 and \$15,000 in annual collections this year. The elimination of the trash can and tree fee would reduce revenues into the joint infrastructure fund by that amount annually. There are few outstanding fees not yet paid.