

ORDINANCE
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

CITY HALL: March 12, 2026

CALENDAR NO. 35,384

NO. _____ MAYOR COUNCIL SERIES

BY: COUNCILMEMBER MORRELL (BY REQUEST)

AN ORDINANCE to reform and provide for the sustainability of the city’s sanitation services by amending and reordaining Sections 138-57, 138-58, 138-59, 138-61, and 138-63 of the Code of the City of New Orleans to amend the city’s sanitation fees and provide relative to the scope thereof; to expressly authorize initiatives intended to augment services by providing for periodic no-cost access to city transfer stations; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, Sanitation services are integral to quality of life and public health for residents of the City;

WHEREAS, The city, as a paramount tourism location for the U.S. and world, welcoming over 19 million visitors in 2024 and hosting global events, must deliver effective sanitation and quality city services;

WHEREAS, The cost of sanitation services for the city totals \$61.8 million in 2026;

WHEREAS, This cost is subject to contracts with service providers, and the cost of services is projected to continue to increase due to inflation and the inflation adjustment currently captured in sanitation service contracts, which increase annually based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U);

WHEREAS, The current sanitation fee was last adjusted in 2011, setting the residential rate at \$24 per month, and the commercial rate at \$48 per month, with no annual adjustment for inflation;

WHEREAS, Services currently provided to the city include both solid waste and recycling collection in Areas 1 through 5 of the City, enhanced sanitation services downtown and in the French Quarter, and the associated landfill disposal costs;

WHEREAS, Following Hurricane Ida, the City of New Orleans implemented reforms and upgrades to city sanitation services, ensuring that collection vehicles must be manufactured in 2021 or later for contracts procured in 2022, collection vehicles must be manufactured in 2023 or later for contracts procured in 2024, and all sanitation collection vehicles must have two-way communication radio systems, active real-time GPS, and 360-degree view camera system;

WHEREAS, Such contracts have delivered an enhanced service level, significantly reducing the number of missed collections complaints by 80% from a peak in 2022;

WHEREAS, The City of New Orleans provides a second cart for residents at no extra charge, as opposed to neighboring South Louisiana municipalities such as Jefferson Parish, Baton Rouge, and Lafayette, where additional carts come at additional expense to residents;

WHEREAS, The City provides a voluntary exemption to the sanitation fee for elders below a certain income, an exemption made fairer and more significant when compared to neighboring municipalities;

WHEREAS, The city does not adjust the sanitation fee annually to account for rising contract costs, as opposed to neighboring municipalities such as Jefferson Parish, Baton Rouge, and Lafayette;

WHEREAS, The Moreno Administration also has committed to additional initiatives and programs aimed at addressing quality-of-life concerns related to trash and sanitation, including but not limited to a dedicated sanitation strike force to provide targeted remediation services Citywide;

WHEREAS, Including all contracted services, the City is projected to run a deficit of approximately \$24 Million for existing sanitation services, and that this deficit, like all sanitation services, is funded by the city’s General Fund;

WHEREAS, The city is currently in the midst of an unprecedented fiscal and cash-flow crisis that continues to threaten the City’s ability to provide core services to its citizens;

WHEREAS, The Louisiana Legislative Auditor has informed the City that it is necessary for them to offset the cost of providing collection services by increasing revenues;

WHEREAS, Increasing the sanitation fee as provided by this ordinance will address the persistent General Fund structural deficit caused by the disconnect between sanitation contract costs and fee collections, and contribute to solving the budget crisis currently faced by the City;

NOW THEREFORE

SECTION 1. THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS HEREBY ORDAINS, That Section 138-57 of the Code of the City of New Orleans, Louisiana is amended to read as follows:

“Chapter 138 – SOLID WASTE

* * *

ARTICLE II. – COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

* * *

8 **Sec. 138-57. – Sanitation charges; collection.**

9 (a) The fees for the collection and disposal of refuse, garbage, trash and
10 other sanitation services, including recycling when provided by the city as part of general
11 sanitation services, shall be charged monthly and shall be assessed as a pro-rata share of
12 the city's cost of providing solid waste collection and disposal sanitation services, in
13 accordance with this section. The sanitation fee shall be calculated by dividing the
14 estimated total expense incurred for solid waste collection and disposal costs citywide for
15 the assessment year by the number of municipal addresses eligible for and receiving
16 sanitation services. For purposes of this calculation and the corresponding fee assessment,
17 each address engaged in a commercial or other non-residential use shall be counted as, and
18 assessed an amount equal to, two residential addresses. The department of sanitation shall
19 calculate and publish the monthly sanitation fee for the applicable assessment year not later
20 than October 1 of the preceding year, along with a clear explanation of the methodology
21 used to calculate the fee.

22 (b) The service fees imposed pursuant to section (a) above shall be mandatory, shall be due
23 and owed by the sewerage and water board account holder, and shall be collected from the
24 sewerage and water board account holder, provided:

25 (1) That funds of the sewerage and water board may not be used for any purpose except
26 for the operation and maintenance of the sewerage, water and drainage systems.

27 (2) That no part of the cost of the procedure of including the sanitation service charge
28 on the water and sewerage bills of the sewerage and water board shall be incurred
29 by the sewerage and water board, and, accordingly, any fees owed to the sewerage
30 and water board pursuant to a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (hereinafter

"CEA") between the city and the sewerage and water board shall be deducted from all sanitation collections received and collected by the sewerage and water board and that such deductions, which are subject to audit by the department of finance, shall be made monthly when the net proceeds are delivered to the city.

(3) That the sewerage and water board is relieved of any and all responsibility of the collection of the sanitation service charges if the sewerage and water board account holder fails to pay the service charges at the time the water and sewerage bills are paid and that all methods of enforcing such collection shall be the responsibility of the city. However, if there is a CEA between the city and the sewerage and water board pursuant to La. R.S. 33:4169.1, the sewerage and water board, at the direction of the city, shall terminate the supply of water to any premises or person delinquent in the payment of sanitation service charges in conformity with La. R.S. 33:4169.1 and the CEA. Prior to the suspension of water supply as the result of a delinquency in payment of sanitation services charges, notice of such suspension shall be mailed to the address of the premises where service will be suspended.

(4) That the collection of such sanitation service charges shall not impair or affect, in any manner or form, the authority of the sewerage and water board to collect its water bills, and its bills for sewerage service as set forth by the procedure adopted by the sewerage and water board.

(5) That the city may contract with a private attorney, law firm or collection agency for legal and other services related to the collection of the sanitation service charges and any penalties attendant thereto.

(6) That all complaints made to the sewerage and water board regarding the collection of sanitation service charges shall be referred to the proper representative of the city, unless otherwise provided by the CEA.

(7) Where a charge has been made for sanitation service and no water and sewerage charges are billed by the sewerage and water board during the billing period, the person paying the sanitation service charge under this section may make a claim for refund by filing a sworn application for refund with the department of finance. Those units being serviced with water by the sewerage and water board and those receiving free water from the sewerage and water board shall pay the same sanitation service charge as the other recipients.

(8) The sanitation service charge will become due on the due date of the water and sewerage bill. If not paid on or before due date, a 15 percent penalty will be added to the outstanding current balance of the sanitation service charge.

SECTION 2. That Section 138-58 of the Code of the City of New Orleans, Louisiana is amended to read as follows:

“Chapter 138 – SOLID WASTE

* * *

ARTICLE II. – COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

* * *

Sec. 138-58. - Exemptions from sanitation charge; litter abatement charges.

(a) The department of finance may annually exempt property owners from the service charges imposed by section 138-57 upon:

(1) Submission of a sworn application for an exemption certifying that collection of refuse at the subject address is provided for on a regular basis by a private refuse collection agency and submission of such proof as necessary to verify refuse collection by a private contractor; and

(2) Payment of a litter abatement service charge in lieu of sanitation service charges in accordance with the following schedule:

(A) Multiple residential property, \$125 per year or \$5.00 per unit per year, whichever is greater.

(B) Nonresidential property, \$125 per year or \$5.00 per unit per year, whichever is greater.

* * *

SECTION 3. That Section 138-59 of the Code of the City of New Orleans, Louisiana is amended to read as follows:

“Chapter 138 – SOLID WASTE

* * *

ARTICLE II. – COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

* * *

Sec. 138-59. - Charges at transfer station.

(a) Charges for the disposal of refuse, garbage, and trash at a city transfer station shall be as follows:

(1) Residential and commercial users up to one-ton truck capacity, unmodified vehicles; with Orleans Parish vehicle inspection stickers (brake tags) or Orleans Parish driver's license:

- 13 (A) Pick-up truck (debris below roof level): \$15.00 per load;
14 (B) Pick-up truck (debris above roof level): \$25.00 per load;
15 (C) Enclosed truck: \$40.00 per load.
- 16 (2) Residential and commercial users with trailer; where combined length of vehicle
17 and trailer does not exceed 25 feet; with Orleans Parish vehicle inspection stickers
18 (brake tags) or Orleans Parish driver's license:
- 19 (A) Open trailer: \$25.00 per load;
20 (B) Enclosed trailer: \$40.00 per load.
- 21 (3) City of New Orleans Departments, Boards, Commissions, no charge.
- 22 (b) The following vehicles shall not be permitted to dispose of refuse, garbage, trash, or any
23 other materials at a city transfer station:
- 24 (1) Vehicles without Orleans Parish vehicle inspection stickers (brake tags) or Orleans
25 Parish driver's license;
- 26 (2) Vehicles over one-ton capacity, regardless of weight.
- 27 (c) The department of sanitation may authorize days, not to exceed one per month, when the
28 disposal of refuse, garbage, and trash at a city transfer station is permitted at no charge, subject to
29 reasonable limitations, as part of a free drop-off program available to residents.”

1 **SECTION 4.** That Section 138-61 of the Code of the City of New Orleans, Louisiana is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **“Chapter 138 – SOLID WASTE**

4 * * *

5 **ARTICLE II. – COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL**

6 * * *

Sec. 138-61. - Waste not accepted at transfer station.

Oversized, bulky waste will not be accepted at the city's transfer stations. The department of sanitation may authorize exceptions to this prohibition, subject to reasonable limitations, as part of a free drop-off program available to residents.”

SECTION 5. That Section 138-63 of the Code of the City of New Orleans, Louisiana is hereby repealed in its entirety.

SECTION 6. That, to facilitate immediate collection of revenue, the adjusted sanitation fee imposed pursuant to City Code § 138-57, as amended by this ordinance, shall be collected beginning on May 1, 2026. The department of sanitation shall calculate and publish online the monthly sanitation fee for the remainder of 2026 on or before April 15, 2026. Collection of the charges imposed pursuant to City Code § 138-58(a)(2), as amended by this ordinance, shall commence on January 1, 2027.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS _____

PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL

DELIVERED TO THE MAYOR ON _____

APPROVED:

DISAPPROVED: _____

MAYOR

RETURNED BY THE MAYOR ON _____ **AT** _____

CLERK OF COUNCIL

ROLL CALL VOTE:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

RECUSED:

ENGROSSED VERSION:

The following engrossed version shows how the proposed law would modify the existing Code.

Additions are underlined. Deletions are shown as ~~striketroughs~~.

Sec. 138-57. - Sanitation charges; collection.

(a) The fees for the collection and disposal of refuse, garbage, trash and other sanitation services, including recycling when provided by the city as part of general sanitation services, shall be charged monthly and shall be assessed as a pro-rata share of the city's cost of providing solid waste collection and disposal sanitation services, in accordance with this section. The sanitation fee shall be calculated by dividing the estimated total expense incurred for solid waste collection and disposal costs citywide for the assessment year by the number of municipal addresses eligible for and receiving sanitation services. For purposes of this calculation and the corresponding fee assessment, each address engaged in a commercial or other non-residential use shall be counted as, and assessed an amount equal to, two residential addresses. The department of sanitation shall calculate and publish the monthly sanitation fee for the applicable assessment year not later than October 1 of the preceding year, along with a clear explanation of the methodology used to calculate the fee. shall be as follows for services rendered during the periods indicated below:

- ~~(1) — Each residential unit, including each residential unit in multi-residential structures, per month: \$24.00.~~
- ~~(2) — Business, professional or service office and institution, per month, per unit: \$24.00.~~
- ~~(3) — Commercial, industrial and manufacturing establishment, per month, per unit: \$48.00.~~

(b) The service fees imposed pursuant to section (a) above shall be mandatory, shall be due and owed by the sewerage and water board account holder, and shall be collected from the sewerage and water board account holder, provided:

- (1) That funds of the sewerage and water board may not be used for any purpose except for the operation and maintenance of the sewerage, water and drainage systems.
- (2) That no part of the cost of the procedure of including the sanitation service charge on the water and/or sewerage bills of the sewerage and water board shall be incurred by the sewerage and water board, and, accordingly, any fees owed to the sewerage and water board pursuant to a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (hereinafter "CEA") between the city and the sewerage and water board shall be deducted from all sanitation collections received and collected by the sewerage and water board

and that such deductions, which are subject to audit by the department of finance, shall be made monthly when the net proceeds are delivered to the city.

- (3) That the sewerage and water board is relieved of any and all responsibility of the collection of the sanitation service charges if the sewerage and water board account holder fails to pay the service charges at the time the water and/or sewerage bills are paid and that all methods of enforcing such collection shall be the responsibility of the city. However, if there is a CEA between the city and the sewerage and water board pursuant to La. R.S. 33:4169.1, the sewerage and water board, at the direction of the city, shall terminate the supply of water to any premises or person delinquent in the payment of sanitation service charges in conformity with La. R.S. 33:4169.1 and the CEA. Prior to the suspension of water supply as the result of a delinquency in payment of sanitation services charges, notice of such suspension shall be mailed to the address of the premises where service will be suspended.
- (4) That the collection of such sanitation service charges shall not impair or affect, in any manner or form, the authority of the sewerage and water board to collect its water bills, and its bills for sewerage service as set forth by the procedure adopted by the sewerage and water board.
- (5) That the city may contract with a private attorney, law firm or collection agency for legal and other services related to the collection of the sanitation service charges and any penalties attendant thereto.
- (6) That all complaints made to the sewerage and water board regarding the collection of sanitation service charges shall be referred to the proper representative of the city, unless otherwise provided by the CEA Cooperative Endeavor Agreement.
- (7) Where a charge has been made for sanitation service and no water and sewerage charges are billed by the sewerage and water board during the billing period, the person paying the sanitation service charge under this section may make a claim for refund by filing a sworn application for refund with the department of finance. Those units being serviced with water by the sewerage and water board and those receiving free water from the sewerage and water board shall pay the same sanitation service charge as the other recipients.
- (8) The sanitation service charge will become due on the due date of the water and/or sewerage bill. If not paid on or before due date, a 15 percent penalty will be added to the outstanding current balance of the sanitation service charge.”

“Sec. 138-58. - Exemptions from sanitation charge; litter abatement charges.

(a) The department of finance may annually exempt property owners from the service charges imposed by section 138-57 upon:

- (1) Submission of a sworn application for an exemption certifying that collection of refuse at the subject address is provided for on a regular basis by a private refuse collection agency and submission of such proof as necessary to verify refuse collection by a private contractor; and
- (2) Payment of a litter abatement service charge in lieu of sanitation service charges in accordance with the following schedule:
 - (A) Multiple residential property, ~~\$100.00~~\$125.00 per year or ~~\$4.00~~\$5.00 per unit per year, whichever is greater.
 - (B) Nonresidential property, ~~\$100.00~~\$125.00 per year or ~~\$4.00~~\$5.00 per unit per year, whichever is greater.”

* * *

“Sec. 138-59. - Charges at transfer station.

(a) Charges for the disposal of refuse, garbage, and trash at a city transfer station shall be as follows:

- (1) Residential and commercial users up to one-ton truck capacity, unmodified vehicles; with Orleans Parish vehicle inspection stickers (brake tags) or Orleans Parish driver's license:
 - (A) Pick-up truck (debris below roof level): \$15.00 per load;
 - (B) Pick-up truck (debris above roof level): \$25.00 per load;
 - (C) Enclosed truck: \$40.00 per load.
- (2) Residential and commercial users with trailer; where combined length of vehicle and trailer does not exceed 25 feet; with Orleans Parish vehicle inspection stickers (brake tags) or Orleans Parish driver's license:
 - (A) Open trailer: \$25.00 per load;
 - (B) Enclosed trailer: \$40.00 per load.
- (3) City of New Orleans Departments, Boards, Commissions, no charge.

(b) The following vehicles shall not be permitted to dispose of refuse, garbage, trash, or any other materials at a city transfer station:

- (1) Vehicles without Orleans Parish vehicle inspection stickers (brake tags) or Orleans Parish driver's license;
- (2) Vehicles over one-ton capacity, regardless of weight.

(c) The department of sanitation may authorize days, not to exceed one per month, when the disposal of refuse, garbage, and trash at a city transfer station is permitted at no charge, subject to reasonable limitations, as part of a free drop-off program available to residents."

* * *

"Sec. 138-61. - Waste not accepted at transfer station.

Oversized, bulky waste will not be accepted at the city's transfer stations. **The department of sanitation may authorize exceptions to this prohibition, subject to reasonable limitations, as part of a free drop-off program available to residents."**

* * *

~~"Sec. 138-63. - Recycling service charge; exemption; collection.~~

~~(a) — The fees for recycling shall be as follows for services rendered:~~

- ~~(1) — Each residential unit, except residential units in multi-residential structures that show proof of exemption from payment of city service fees as provided in this section below, \$1.00 per month.~~
- ~~(2) — Business, professional, or service office or institution, except those that show proof of exemption from payment of city service fees as provided in this section below, \$1.00 per month.~~
- ~~(3) — Commercial, industrial and manufacturing establishments, except those that show proof of exemption from payment of city service fees as provided in this section below, \$2.00 per month.~~

~~(b) — The fees imposed in subsection (a) of this section shall be due and are owed by the recipient of the services and shall be collected by the property owner from the recipient of the service and paid by the owner of the property on the water and/or sewerage bills of the sewerage and water board.~~

~~(c) — The director of finance shall provide a certificate of exemption from the recycling charge for 12 months for any head of household who is 65 years of age or older and whose household income does not exceed the standard for low income households which is established by the U.S.~~

Department of Housing and Urban Development. The certificate shall be provided by the director upon receipt of satisfactory evidence of age and household income and may be renewed annually upon resubmission of evidence. The sewerage and water board shall not include the recycling charge on the bill of any head of household for which a certificate of exemption has been granted during the effective period of the exemption.

(d) — ~~Proof of exemption may be certified as follows:~~

(1) — ~~Proof of age.~~

a. — ~~Louisiana state I.D.~~

b. — ~~Louisiana driver's license.~~

c. — ~~Birth certificate.~~

d. — ~~Other (U.S. passport, U.S. resident I.D., out of state driver's license).~~

~~Once a person proves that he or she is 65 years or older, verification of age is done only once.~~

(2) — ~~Proof of federal low income.~~

a. — ~~Supplemental security card (SSI).~~

b. — ~~Medicaid card.~~

c. — ~~Food stamps I.D. card (FSP2).~~

d. — ~~Social security administration award letter.~~

(3) — ~~[Poverty income guidelines.] Poverty income guidelines according to federal register are as follows:~~

No. of Household	Income
1	\$ 7,470.00
2	10,030.00
3	12,590.00
4	15,150.00
5	17,710.00
6	20,070.00

7	22,830.00
8	25,390.00
Households larger than eight, add \$2,560.00 for each additional number. These guidelines shall be reversed in accordance with federal guidelines.	

~~(e) — The department of finance may annually exempt property owners from the service charges imposed by subsection (a) of this section upon:~~

~~(1) — Submission of a sworn application of an exemption certifying that collection of refuse at the subject address is provided for on a regular basis by a private refuse collection agency, and that collection of recyclables at the subject address is provided for on a regular basis by a private recycling agency, and submission of such proof as necessary to verify collection by a private contractor. All private recycling programs must have a waste reductions goal of 25 percent, consistent with applicable state law, and must provide a sworn application to that effect.~~

~~(2) — Payment of a litter abatement service charge in lieu of sanitation service charges according to the schedule provided in section 138-58 of this Code.~~

~~(f) — The recycling charge will become due on the due date of the water and/or sewerage bill. If not paid on or before the due date, a ten percent penalty will be added to the recycling charge.~~

~~(g) — Persons qualifying for exemption from the recycling service charge, as provided in this section, shall also be granted exemption from any increase in the sanitation service charge, as provided in section 137-57(a), above the rates in effect as of December 1, 2000.~~

~~(h) — The department of finance shall temporarily exempt all persons from the recycling service charge imposed by subsection (a). This fee exemption shall apply retroactively from September 1, 2005, and shall remain effective until recycling collection services are resumed."~~