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Sustainability in Action

FACT CHECK: BULK WASTE SERVICES

Republic Services has proudly served Toledo's residents and businesses for the past 15 years. During the March 25th Committee of the Whole meeting, city administration made a few statements regarding Republic Services and our initiatives to enhance bulk waste collection services. We would like to clarify the information.

STATEMENT

"We have been having these conversations for over five years, and coincidentally enough, in the last three months, Republic was able to change their bulk collection process to what Priority proposed."

"One of the benefits of the contract with (the other provider) is they are allowing for furniture and appliances to be collected."

THE FACTS

Republic Services held initial discussions about revamped solid waste services in February 2025. Both City of Toledo and Lucas County Solid Waste representatives were invited to the kickoff call.

Our initial proposal was delivered to the city via email on April 4, 2025.

The proposal was subsequently revised and adjusted in coordination with the City of Toledo over the next several months. Details about the enhanced bulk waste pickup proposal were rolled out to the public in December 2025, and the program began in earnest in January.

Details of Republic Services' and its competitor's bid were not made public during the procurement process and were first reported by WTVG | ABC13 in early December.

Republic Services collaboratively developed enhanced bulk waste services with both the County and City beginning in early 2025, well in advance of the RFP.

Republic Services instituted a new bulk waste program in response to city concerns and at no cost to residents.

We want to make clear to the benefits that Republic Services bulk program provides to the residents.

Republic Services allows residents to place up to five large items, each weighing less than 40 pounds, at the curb each week. We do require that mattresses and other fabric furniture items be wrapped in plastic to prevent the proliferation and spread of bed bugs.

We also notified the city in December 2025, via email, that we would pick up appliances as part of our enhanced bulk collection, so long as the freon was removed. (This is required under federal law.)

"We feel we are adding value by going with (the other provider) as part of this contract. We will see a reduction of blight within our neighborhoods, and an increased satisfaction to residents."

"The biggest difference (in technology) is that it is real-time and that there are cameras on the trucks."

During the procurement process, Republic Services submitted a bid of \$977,000 a month, while its competitor bid \$1,123,300. That's **an increase of \$1.7 million just in the first year of the contract – for the exact same service.**

Further, as provided during the Committee of the Whole meeting, the number of blight-related service calls has dropped significantly in the first quarter of this year.

There have been 736 calls since the new bulk waste program began, compared to 8,245 in 2025.

That means **the city is on track to see a 64 percent reduction in complaint calls this year.**

Republic Services' bid includes the opportunity for residents to opt-in to state-of-the-art technology platforms. These allow residents to track the location of their collection truck, and the company to send real-time service updates.

Further, **all our trucks are equipped with cameras** that monitor the interior and exterior of the vehicle.

But perhaps most importantly, **Republic Services has a safety rate that is 23 percent better** than the industry average over the last 10 years.



Safety is our top priority.

Our employees encounter bulk pickup piles like this everyday. This is over 4 feet high in some areas, includes exposed nails, unwrapped mattresses and stretches across three houses. If a pile or item is non-compliant, we tag the item and notify the property owner or resident why it wasn't picked up.

What we collect

- Old mattresses (wrapped)
- Furniture
- Appliances
- Wood piles (bundled)
- Home construction materials

What we don't collect

- Batteries
- Tires
- Hazardous Waste
- Computer monitors
- Commercial construction materials
- Major car parts
- Metal box springs and doors