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CITY OF KALAMAZOO TO CONVERT TO QUARTERLY BULK TRASH COLLECTION IN SEPTEMBER 2016

For Immediate Release

July 18, 2016, Kalamazoo, Michigan – In September 2016 the City of Kalamazoo will convert to quarterly bulk trash collection. Monthly pickup will continue through September, after which collections will occur in the months of March, June, September, and December each year (the final pickup of 2016 will be in December).

This change will only affect the frequency of pickup. Acceptable items and permitted quantities will remain the same. The program allows residents to place 7.5 cubic yards of bulk trash items (items that will not fit in regular household trash) for each pickup. A list of acceptable items and additional program details are available at <http://www.kalamazoo.org/residents/bulk-trash-pickup>.

This change is being made to manage the increasing costs of solid waste programs without requiring additional resources. The 1.8 mills currently assessed for solid waste programs would need to be increased to maintain monthly collection. A survey of residents conducted in 2015 indicated that quarterly bulk trash collection would still meet community needs, without raising rates further.

“This change will preserve an important service in our community without asking any more of our residents,” said James Baker, Public Services Director for the City of Kalamazoo. “Feedback has been that quarterly collection will be sufficient, and this change will allow us to pursue other services that have been requested by Kalamazoo residents.”

A grace period will be in effect during the month of October to ease the transition. Residents who leave trash for collection will receive a notice and be allowed two days to correct the issue. If the items remain on the curbside after this period, the City may take enforcement action and bill the clean-up cost to the property owner.

The updated schedule will be included in the bi-annual View from the Curb newsletter that will be mailed in August. City staff have been also been working with neighborhood associations, landlords, property managers, and community leaders to ensure customers are reached.

Residents are also encouraged to utilize the Recycle Coach app available for iPhone and Android devices and at www.recyclecoach.com. This service provides a customized collection calendar for all of the City’s solid waste services and also allows users to report issues, receive important notices, and offers information about the proper way to dispose of household items.

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