



Volusia County FLORIDA

County Manager

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JAMES T. DINNEEN
COUNTY MANAGER

July 28, 2009

RE: Proposed increase in solid waste collection fee

Dear Volusia County Solid Waste Customer:

You received a letter dated July 13, 2009 regarding a proposed increase to the county's annual fee for weekly curbside solid waste collection and recycling service, which provided the information in the manner to meet legal requirements of state law. I offer today a more user friendly and comprehensive explanation of the reasons for the proposed increase and respond to questions raised by many of you as recipients of that letter.

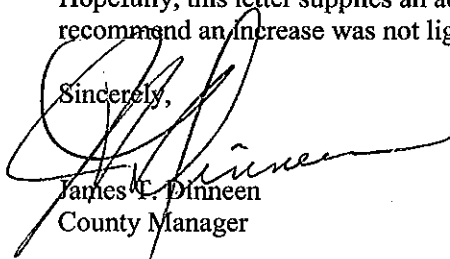
No one likes fee increases, especially in light of today's difficult economy that is having an adverse financial impact on many Volusia residents. The reason for the proposed fee increase is that the current fee amount doesn't pay for the cost of this service. The county pays a private company to do the weekly, curbside collection and disposal of refuse and recyclables. Like most everything else, the contractor's cost of fuel, labor, maintenance, and other operating expenses have increased in the five years this fee amount has existed. The county has not adjusted this fee since 2004. The county does not profit with this fee increase proposal, but recovers what it pays the contractor and recoups over time a subsidy provided by other funds for the last three years.

As proposed, the fee would increase from the current \$132 per year to \$197 annually, beginning in October. This is a \$65 increase per year -- \$5.41 per month. The fee increase would apply to about 44,500 residences in unincorporated Volusia County. You should know that residents living within Volusia cities pay a similar fee amount but some cities bill monthly, some annually.

The county uses the tax bill as the vehicle to charge and collect the fee. However, this is a fixed fee charged once a year per residence, unlike the property tax which is based on assessed property valuation. While state law authorizes the county to place a lien on properties for failure to pay, this is a measure of extreme last resort. State law requires the county to use the "failure to pay" language in the last paragraph of the notice (or multiple notices if you own multiple properties) you received July 13, 2009.

Hopefully, this letter supplies an adequate explanation and assures each of you that the decision to recommend an increase was not lightly made.

Sincerely,



James T. Dinneen
County Manager

For more information about the proposed fee increase, please call Volusia County Solid Waste at 386/943-7889. Internet users can visit Volusia.org/recycle.

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