

# City of Malden

## Trash and Recycling

### Update on Proposal for Overhaul

Mayor Gary Christenson  
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# Problems We are Trying to Solve

- Current recycling 'bins' just don't work, resulting in Trash 'all over our streets' on trash day
- Current dual stream recycling system is not resident friendly
- The lack of an option to blue bags has led to an increase in contamination in recycling
  - No 'convenient' option to dispose of a 'normal' amount of trash outside of blue bag purchase
- Uncontained trash bags on the street have resulted in dirtier streets and rodent challenges



# In August We Proposed.....

- Provide each resident with a 64 Gallon barrel for trash and a 32 gallon single stream recycling barrel
- Replace PAYT bag cost with a \$10 per month/per unit charge on water bill
  - 50% discount for seniors
- Overflow stickers for those needing to dispose of additional trash
- Trash 'holidays' to facilitate excess trash during peak holiday periods



# Resident Feedback

- Conducted resident forum at Senior Center
- Gathered social media feedback so far from hundreds of residents; 600+ facebook comments
- Feedback from residents through multiple local elected officials campaigning
  - Options to allow for the flexibility currently provided by the PAYT program (ie differing options for differing levels of trash produced)
  - A lidded barrel/toter option
  - Continue to keep the cost in the hands of the producer of the trash



# Some things to like.....some things to consider

Some Residents Really Liked	While Others Didn't Like
The conversion to single stream	A non lidded barrel solution
Not being forced to buy blue bags	The lack of flexibility with a barrel only approach (some really like the blue bag system and what it does)
Being provided a City issued barrel	The one size fits all approach and large barrel size, particularly the large trash/smaller recycling barrel combo
The simplicity of monthly billing for trash services	Putting it on the water bill, transferring responsibility to the property owner



# A Revised Approach

Goal: More flexibility for residents while not signing the city up to fail operationally

- ✓ Provide each resident with a city issued 32 gallon covered recycling 'toter' at no cost
- ✓ Provide each resident with a city issued 32 gallon covered trash 'toter' at no cost
- ✓ Residents may fill the barrel with resident purchased 'blue bags' of the size that works for them
  - ✓ If you love the current system, no change; we simply provide you with a container to put it in to deal with issues of bags blowing around, rodents, etc.....OR
- ✓ Resident may instead purchase an annual 'trash tag' for \$75, affix it to the barrel, and shall then be able to fill up the 'toter' with regular household bags
  - ✓ Represents a 25% discount over the same capacity of trash bags and ease of convenience
- ✓ Residents could purchase a second barrel and tag if their capacity exceeds the 32 gallon capacity, or could utilize the blue bags for those weeks where capacity exceeds a single barrel
- ✓ We would propose working with a third party vendor for mail order fulfillment of the 'trash tags', in addition to making them available at city offices



# A Great Compromise

- ✓ Allows those who feel the current system is serving them well to continue to utilize that system of buying the right size and quantity blue bags
- ✓ Reduces the barrel size for trash to a size that will allow us to qualify for state grant funding for barrels
- ✓ Provides a meaningful 'once a year' option for residents who prefer not to deal with blue bags weekly
- ✓ Keeps the cost and accountability for trash generation with the trash producer
- ✓ Simplifies greatly the operational/billing process

