WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MEMORANDUM

TO:	**MAYOR A. NUTTALL AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**
FROM:	**S. MACK, P.ENG., ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, EXT. 5839**
WARD:	**ALL**
NOTED:	**B. ARANIYASUNDARAN, P.ENG., PMP, GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT**
	M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
RE:	**WASTE COLLECTION SERVICING UPDATE – BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA**
DATE:	**DECEMBER 18, 2024**

Purpose

Further to the request from Councillor Riepma at General Committee on September 25, 2024, the purpose of this memorandum is to provide members of Council with additional information on residential and business waste collection within the Business Improvement Area (BIA) and changes to come as the City transitions to automated waste cart collection in 2025.

Summary

In early January 2025, on-line registration (barrie.ca/curbsidecollectionchanges) will open for residential and business properties within the BIA that require municipal waste collection services after September 8, 2025.

Once automated cart collection begins, the City will no longer be collecting loose bagged garbage, green bins or business recycling in boxes/bags dropped along the streets within the BIA. City-collected waste (organics, garbage and business recycling) will be required to be placed in City-provided carts. Changing waste collection to an automated, cart-based service will reduce litter, enhance pest control, create consistency in containers and aesthetics curbside, and reduce injuries for collection workers. Cart collection has been successfully implemented within downtown cores of other municipalities with a similar historic configuration.

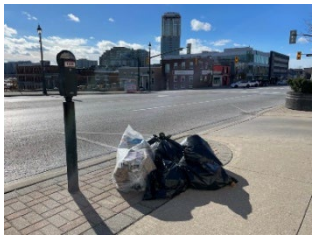
Properties requiring waste collection service within the BIA will need to register by March 31, 2025 for the new, more structured BIA collection program. Carts will be provided at no charge based on the number of residential and/or commercial units (from Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) and the City's Second Suite Registration) with collection occurring at driveways/entrances, in public/private laneways or, where necessary, along certain streetscapes. "One size fits all" will not be the approach for waste collection within this area and the BIA registration program will allow for property-specific consultation to determine cart quantities/sizes and storage/set-out locations. Staff are cognizant that there will be some complex areas to service within the BIA and are working with property owners and the City's waste contractor to develop operational plans.

Waste management within the BIA will be an on-going, long-term project for the City's waste team. Registration for waste services is the first step of this project – followed by consultation/planning for service provision and delivery of the carts, BIA-related updates to the Waste Management By-law, public space bin enhancements and a long-term plan for monitoring, education, and enforcement. This project will be bolstered by on-going collaboration with the Downtown Barrie BIA, property/business owners, and other departments within the City (Enforcement, Operations, etc.).

Background

The City currently provides curbside waste collection of residential organics, business (non-residential) recycling, yard waste and garbage to approximately 300 residential and business properties located within the BIA. In addition, there are 14 buildings/properties that are eligible for the City's multi-residential program (these buildings/properties have more than five (5) residential units). Under the new waste collection contract which began on May 1, 2024, waste is collected Monday through Friday generally in the early morning hours before on-street parking and traffic increases.

Typically, loose black bag garbage, some residential organics and recycling are set out at the curb along public roads or at driveways/entries to parking lots with "common collection points" permitted to service multiple units within retail and commercial/industrial complexes. There is little to no ownership of waste – with garbage typically seen dropped beside public space bins or randomly along streetscapes in core downtown areas throughout the day. Although the current system is convenient for businesses and residents with daily collection and unenforceable garbage limits, it often creates unsightly mess, negatively impacts the aesthetics of the city's downtown area and looks untidy.



BIA Waste Management Plan

Waste management within downtown/BIA areas is challenging for many municipalities by the very nature of the developed space. Challenges include:

- Lack of ownership of waste – bags of garbage dropped throughout the downtown area at all times of day with no connection to the business/property it belongs to;
- Indiscriminate dumping of ineligible materials along the street such as bulky waste (furniture, mattresses and construction/demolition material, etc.);
- Density of development limiting space for waste storage and set-out;
- Lack of space/configuration in some areas for waste vehicle access and the absence of rear lanes for service provision;
- Vehicle/pedestrian traffic and parking impeding collection;
- Consideration for the aesthetics of the BIA and waste set out in areas with restaurant patios and pedestrians; and
- Public space bins considered as "free dumping" – use of these litter bins for bagged household garbage causing overflow and unsightly messes around the bins.

Given the complexity of waste management/collection within the BIA, a multi-faceted approach will be required for long-term success. This includes:

- Residential/IC&I property owners within the BIA will be required to register for City waste collection services by March 31, 2025 to facilitate a seamless transition to the new service.

- City staff will be consulting with individual property owners and/or their delegate (such as a property manager) to determine the number of carts, storage and set out locations.

- Based on service needs (particularly in the more densified downtown areas), staff will work to plan for servicing and distribution of carts in late summer 2025. Staff note that there are areas where buildings extend to property lines, there are no rear laneways, and limited space for storage and/or set out. Staff have walked many of these areas with the City's waste collection contractor this fall and note a few "tools" for servicing that will be needed – including semi-automated collection, sharing of carts, and potential use of smaller collection vehicles.

- As part of the preparations for automated waste collection, the Waste Management By-law will be updated and include new requirements within the BIA for registering for servicing, changes to the frequency of collection, and responsibilities for property owners/managers to manage their carts.

- Staff will work on new educational materials for property owners, tenants, and businesses to help them understand waste management within the BIA, acceptable items for each waste stream, and where to find assistance. Staff anticipate that this would be done in collaboration and with feedback from the Downtown Barrie BIA.

- A plan to review and update public space containers used to collect litter (recycling and garbage) within core areas of the BIA.

- Staff will continue to work collaboratively with the City's Enforcement team and stakeholders on issues pertaining to dumping.

Communication and Implementation

Plans for a robust city-wide communications campaign supporting the change to automated waste collection are in place and will start with the distribution of the annual Waste Collection Calendar this month. Alongside this campaign, there will be a communications plan specific to the BIA. This includes:

- A direct mail piece to all property owners within the BIA outlining the new program and mandatory registration to assist in planning for the change to automated collection. Given the on-going Canada Post strike, staff are working to use a courier service to deliver/send a letter and e-mail notification (where possible);
- Site visits to discuss with businesses in the BIA the changes and requirement of the property owner to register for waste collection services;
- Leveraging both the Downtown Barrie BIA and Invest Barrie's contact information and communication pieces to relay information; and
- Distribution of an FAQ/information for the BIA program at upcoming events through the winter.