

SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
AGENDA MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Litter Issues Related to Solid Waste Hauling Activities

DEPARTMENT: Environmental Services DIVISION: Solid Waste Management

AUTHORIZED BY:  Robert G. Adolphe, P.E. CONTACT:  David Gregory EXT. 2022

Agenda Date 12/14/04 Regular  Consent  Work Session  Briefing   
Public Hearing – 1:30  Public Hearing – 7:00

**MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff seeks direction concerning issues related to litter caused by solid waste hauling activities.

**BACKGROUND:**

As directed at the November 9, 2004 Board of County Commissioners meeting, staff has conducted a preliminary investigation concerning litter management.

Litter on County roadways has been a reoccurring problem in Seminole County, and the amount of litter in close proximity to the landfill and transfer station appears to be increasing. It is obvious that much of this litter come from vehicles hauling solid waste. In general three types of vehicles haul solid waste: self-haul (mom & pop) customers, commercial solid waste customers, and County solid waste transfer vehicles.

Litter management in the proximity of the solid waste management facilities presents several challenges. While periodic litter pickup is conducted, new littering can happen at any time, even right after a pickup has occurred. Often the vehicle that caused the litter cannot be identified.

The Solid Waste Management Division will continue to pickup litter on roads near the landfill and transfer station. To be effective, a litter control program needs to address:

- Litter prevention and deterrence
- Regular removal of litter with the ability to quickly respond to incidents of litter on the roadway

Reviewed by:  
Co Atty: \_\_\_\_\_  
DFS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
DCM: SS  
CM: Rb  
File No. BESS01

## IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO LITTER

Solid Waste Management Division staff has initiated an immediate response to the increased amount of litter on the road.

- An inspector has been assigned to observe traffic approximately one hour each day, at random times, in an attempt to identify the sources of the litter.
- Litter pickup efforts have been increased along the roadways leading to the landfill and transfer station. Pick-up crews are comprised of temporary laborer and court-assigned community service workers under the direction of a Seminole County employee. Increased temporary labor costs will have an effect on the division's budget.
- Notification memos are being provided to each driver that hauls material to the facilities. The memos ask the drivers to make sure that their loads are secured, and it reminds the drivers that traffic citations may be issued for unsecured loads. Traffic citations issued to a commercial driver assess points against the Commercial Drivers' License.
- Formal letters are being sent to all franchise holders and Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) holders advising the companies of the importance of securing loads and the potential penalties for unsecured loads.
- The Sheriff's Office has been contacted concerning litter enforcement.
- Solid Waste Management Division staff is stepping up efforts to make sure the containment systems on the transfer trailers are intact.

## LONGER-TERM RESPONSE TO LITTER - EXPANDED LITTER PROGRAM OPTIONS

### Litter Prevention

Efforts to inform customers of the importance of securing waste loads, and cooperation with the Sheriff's Office will continue into the future.

### Litter Removal

Regular litter pickup helps to maintain the appearance of areas where waste hauling occurs. Implementing any option to augment regular litter pickup presents both benefits and challenges. In most cases, the actual truck (commercial or self-haul) that caused the litter cannot be identified. When littering is observed, the offending party usually can be convinced to pickup the mess they made. Expanding the regular litter pickup program could be accomplished by any of the following:

- Volunteers pickup litter (e.g., Adopt-a-Road, etc.) – While providing a low cost service, volunteer labor does not respond quickly or regularly.
- Solid waste hauling companies pickup litter - The franchise agreements or COPCNs could be amended to require periodic litter pickup. The County's commercial solid waste franchises and the COPCNs are awarded annually for a one-year term. New residential solid waste collection franchises were recently granted for a five-year term. To assure litter pickup, the agreements would have to be changed, and compliance by the franchisees or certificate holders would require monitoring and enforcement efforts.
- County resources pickup litter - This method provides the most responsive labor force. An expanded effort will require additional resources.

### Shared Responsibility Solution

One potential solution may assure the responsiveness of having County crews provide litter pickup while sharing the responsibility for pickup with the waste haulers. Currently, the County charges application fees for commercial franchises and COPCNs. Modifying these fees could generate revenues from commercial haulers to pay for litter pickup. Additionally, flat rate charges could be adjusted by a nominal amount so that individuals self-hauling waste to the disposal facilities support the litter pickup efforts. Final fees and costs for this program could be brought forward during the budget process.

### Other Potential Solutions

Other opportunities exist for the pickup of litter in Seminole County. Any of the identified solutions or new opportunities can be investigated and implemented, including non-profit corporations (e.g., Keep America Beautiful) that could seek public and private funding to support county-wide litter pickup efforts. Litter pickup with current resources will continue until an expanded program is put in place.