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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DeKalb County Interim CEO Lee May Proposes Cost-Saving Sanitation Initiative

Includes no rate increase; free waste containers for county residents

DECATUR, Ga. – DeKalb County Interim CEO Lee May strongly recommends the initiative by the DeKalb County Sanitation Division to pursue one-day-a-week solid waste and recycling collection and the institution of uniform, county-provided trash containers for county residents.

Interim CEO May's recommendation follows a thorough analysis of internal and externally-sourced data detailing customer feedback from a three-month long pilot program that concluded in July 2014. The pilot tested the initiative on a sample of more than 28,000 residents from all over the county. Customer feedback from the pilot determined more than 75 percent of customers in all parts of unincorporated DeKalb and the four cities support the elements of the initiative.

"If the new initiative is adopted by the Board, it will ensure efficiency of our operations and keep our neighborhoods cleaner and more attractive," said Interim CEO May. "Our residential sanitation rates have remained constant for the last eight years, and with the launch of this initiative, we will continue that trend. We wish to remain fiscally responsible in the face of rising operating costs and at the same time provide excellent customer service to county residents."

The following outlines the proposed solid waste and recycling initiative from DeKalb County's Sanitation Division:

- **Residential customers will not experience a rate increase.**
- **Standardized containers.** The standardized use of 65-gallon green county-provided trash containers will ensure neighborhoods are cleaner and neater with the reduction of loose trash.
- **One-day-a-week waste collection.** Currently, garbage is collected twice a week for DeKalb County residents. On the first collection day, Sanitation picks up more than 66 percent of countywide garbage. This leaves a much lighter second-day collection.
- **Consolidated collection.** With consolidated collection, all waste (solid waste, recycling, and yard trimmings) will be collected on the same day.
- **Additional benefits to county residents.** The program will include a renewed focus on recycling education for county residents and additional roadside litter collection by Sanitation employees.

(MORE)

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The agenda item is expected to be heard at an upcoming Board of Commissioners meeting for a vote.

For more information, please call 404-294-2900.

DeKalb County is Georgia's third largest county with more than 700,000 residents calling it home. Known for its business and education hub, growing international community and natural wonders, DeKalb County Government is administered by [Interim Chief Executive Officer Lee May](#) and legislative policy is set by a seven-member [Board of Commissioners](#).

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