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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 10, 2015

# DeKalb County Board of Commissioners Approves Cost-Saving Sanitation Service Change

*One-day-a-week collection change includes no rate increase*

**DECATUR, Ga.** – The DeKalb County Board of Commissioners adopted DeKalb County Interim CEO Lee May’s recommended cost-saving sanitation initiative. The vote was held during a regular session of the Board of Commissioners on **Tuesday, March 10, 2015**.

The initiative, proposed by the DeKalb County Sanitation Division, highlights a one-day-a-week solid waste, recyclables and yard trimmings collection service change, and the institution of standardized, county-provided garbage containers for county residents.

“This is an historic vote, and I am pleased that we can move forward to ensure efficiency of our operations, and confirm our need to remain fiscally responsible in the face of rising operating costs,” said ICEO May.

ICEO May recommended the initiative after a thorough analysis of internal and externally-sourced data, detailing customer feedback from a three-month pilot program that concluded in July 2014. The study tested the initiative on a sample of approximately 28,000 residents from all over the county. Customer feedback from the pilot determined that more than 80 percent of customers in all parts of unincorporated DeKalb County and the cities of Brookhaven, Chamblee, Dunwoody and Lithonia support the elements of the initiative.

The following outlines the new solid waste and recycling initiative that was approved by the Board of Commissioners:

- **Residential customers will not experience a rate increase.**
- **Standardized containers.** The standardized use of 65-gallon green county-provided garbage containers will ensure neighborhoods are cleaner and neater with the reduction of loose trash.

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- **One-day-a-week waste collection.** Currently, garbage is collected twice a week for DeKalb County residents. On the first collection day, the Sanitation Division 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 Division employees.

More information on the new initiative, including an official program launch date and implementation timeline will be provided within the coming weeks.

For more information, visit the Sanitation Division's website at [www.dekalbsanitation.com](http://www.dekalbsanitation.com) or 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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