



# Office of City Clerk

## City Council Document Tracking Sheet

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**Matter ID:** R2023-0004979

**Meeting Date:** 10/4/2023

**Sponsor(s):** Martin (47) \*

**Type:** Resolution

**Title:** Call on Department of Streets and Sanitation to pilot curbside food scrap and yard waste collection program

**Committee Assignment:** Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chicago is committed to creating resilient and sustainable communities by expanding equitable access to critical environmental infrastructure in every Chicago neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chicago's Department of Streets & Sanitation (DSS) manages waste collection for more than 600,000 households, including single-family homes up to 4-unit residential buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, 25% of all waste from DSS-served households consists of food scraps and yard waste, and 47% of Chicago's total organic waste comes from single-family households served by DSS; and

**WHEREAS**, less than 1% of eligible city households utilize 311 to request that DSS pickup their yard waste, despite the existence of a 1990 Illinois state law that prohibits yard waste from being disposed of in landfills; and

**WHEREAS**, composting facilities are located much closer to most Chicago households than landfills used by the city, requiring fewer vehicle miles traveled; and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's 2022 report estimates that landfills in the Chicago Metropolitan area have approximately seven years of remaining capacity if we dispose of waste at a constant rate; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2021 *City of Chicago Waste Strategy* recommends that DSS provide opt-in curbside organics collection to reduce the amount of organics material going to landfills; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2022 *Chicago Climate Action Plan* calls for the promotion of circular economies to create jobs and reduce waste and 90% residential diversion by 2040; and

**WHEREAS**, the services provided by private, licensed haulers that manage food scrap and yard waste in Chicago are popular, but present economic barriers to participation due to their cost; and

**WHEREAS**, the piloting of an equitable food scrap and yard waste program would provide data to inform future efforts to replicate and scale an organic waste diversion system across Chicago; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Members of City Council of the City of Chicago, hereby call upon DSS to improve Chicago's overall waste diversion and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by piloting a curbside food scrap and yard waste collection program that prioritizes historically underserved communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this pilot shall:

1. Provide weekly curbside organics collection along 15 existing garbage routes, serving approximately 5,250 single-family households in disadvantaged communities as

defined by the Council on Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST); and

2. Create partnerships between DSS staff, a community engagement partner, and research partner to ensure effective implementation and provide for future citywide scaling of the pilot; and
3. Establish a reasonable timetable for the initiation of the pilot between January 2024 and September 2026. This timeline should adhere to the following dates to the greatest extent possible:
  - a. February to March 2024: DSS procures trucks and carts and establishes pilot routes; DSS households begin opting in on a rolling basis; and DSS sends first mailer to households that opt in and follow-up mailers every six months; and
  - b. April 2024: Organics curbside collection begins; and
  - c. September 2026: report by research partner completed.



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Matthew J. Martin  
Alderman, 47<sup>th</sup> Ward