

Richard Alarcón

Councilmember, 7th District



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ALARCÓN INTRODUCES “CLEAN CITY, BETTER WORLD” MOTION TO INCENTIVIZE RECYCLING AND RAISE APPROXIMATELY \$18.8 MILLION

Funds to be raised through fully collecting and increasing the fee on extra or larger trash and green waste containers; additional recycling capacity remains free for residents.

Los Angeles, CA – Facing a proposed budget that drastically reduces services to the community, today Los Angeles City Councilmember Richard Alarcón introduced a motion that will bring in approximately \$18.8 million additional dollars that will be used to fund critical city services including adding 500 miles of street sweeping, restoring the budget for Clean & Green, restoring 18 fire captain positions, fully funding the city’s library program and putting an additional \$2 million into the reserve fund. (*See attachment for motion and full list of programs to be funded*).

The funds for this proposed program will be generated by fully collecting the fees for and increasing the fees on additional or larger than standard issue trash containers (“black bins”) and green waste containers (“green bins”) for residential customers. To promote and encourage recycling, the cost for additional container or capacity for recycling containers (“blue bins”) will remain free of charge.

“We all pay the price when things are thrown away rather than recycled or reused,” said Councilmember Alarcón. “Now residents have a choice – either reduce their amount of trash down to one standard bin or contribute to the larger effort to create a cleaner, safer and fiscally sound city.”

Trash, green waste and recycling bins come in three sizes – 30 gallon, 60 gallon and 90 gallon – and all households are allotted a 60 gallon black, 90 gallon green and a 90 gallon blue container. The Bureau of Sanitation currently collects a fee of \$2.50 per 30 gallon extra capacity unit for green waste and \$5.00 per 30 gallons extra capacity unit for black trash containers. However, currently the Bureau of Sanitation does not collect a fee on approximately 40% of the additional capacity. This motion would both ensure that all customers pay their fair share by instructing the Bureau to collect fees on all extra capacity units as well as doubling the fees for the black and green containers. It will also increase the fees to \$10 per 30 gallons of extra capacity for the black bin and \$5 per 30 gallons of extra capacity for the green bin.

The figure of \$18.8 million dollars is arrived at by taking the full amount that would be gathered in one year if the fees were doubled and all fees were collected, then subtracting 25% to account for start-up time (since a complete full year will be collected as the program will take time to implement) as well as deducting 25% to account for returned or lost additional capacity containers.

This motion is part of the city’s budget adoption process for the 2008-2009 budget. With a unanimous vote in support of the motion (13-0) by the City Council, the process for collecting the currently uncollected fees will be implemented immediately. The consideration of the rate increase and the allocation of funding will be heard in the City Council’s Budget & Finance Committee shortly.