

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: February 25, 2016

1. Digital Speed Signs

Public Works will move the pole mounted digital speed signs this week to: **Dunleigh Drive** (fr. Penn Manor Lane); **Idlewild Drive** (fr. Madeley Lane); **Kingsfield Lane** (fr. Longleaf Drive); **Orchard Park Way** (fr. River Park Road); **Steeplechase Drive** (fr. Dunwood Valley Drive); and **London Lane** (fr. Arden Forest Lane).

2. Single Stream Recycling

Over the past several years the City of Bowie had benefited from a contract with Waste Management Recycle America, L.L.C. (WMRA). This contract enabled the City to deliver mixed recyclable materials from the curbside collections to a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Capitol Heights, MD. Until October 2015, the City has received a small monetary gain from the sale of these materials to WMRA.

The Capitol Heights MRF is actually owned by Prince George's County but operations is contracted out. The City's agreement to take recycling materials to the facility is made with the operator. In November 2015, Prince George's County awarded a new operating contract to Maryland Environmental Service (MES), a self-supporting, independent State agency. On February 22, 2016, the City entered a new agreement with MES to allow the City to deliver our recyclable materials to the Capitol Heights MRF. This new agreement includes a \$25 per ton tipping fee. That fee represents a \$125,000 per year increase in the City's single stream recycling cost.

While the MES tipping fee results in a significant cost increase for Bowie, the cost is favorable compared to other alternatives. One other MRF large enough to accept Bowie's recycling is within a reasonable travel distance from the City (but further than Capitol Heights). That facility, a privately-owned facility located in Howard County, charges \$35 per ton. The fee for disposal of household trash at the County landfill is \$59 per ton.

Both of these MRFs (Capitol Heights and Howard County) accept similar materials so there is no impact to our single collection rules. Neither of these MRFs accepts plastic films (plastic bags).