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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Newark to Let RFP for Refuse and Recycling Services

Newark, DE - March 26, 2015: The City of Newark, DE intends to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for its refuse collection services in an effort to identify whether a partnership with a local collector could provide operational efficiency and cost savings. Bids recently received for similar, or possibly higher, levels of service in Delaware have prompted the effort to perform a complete analysis of residential waste collection services. Once bid proposals are received and evaluated against Newark's existing service levels and costs, city management will bring the information to City Council for further consideration. While outsourcing was a topic of discussion several years ago, an RFP was never let. The proposed contract would retain municipal oversight and customer service, creating a customer experience as close as possible to our residents' current experience.

"Our refuse and recycling services are highly rated and have set a high bar for customer expectations," said City Manager Carol Houck. "However, we have a fiduciary duty to our community to evaluate opportunities to reduce the cost of providing existing services. It's important that our Mayor and Council have an opportunity to review the detail and ultimately consider a staff recommendation so that our community as a whole knows specifically what we are passing on or embracing."

A full evaluation and public presentation at a future Council Meeting will take place following the receipt and evaluation of proposals, and no reductions in services or increases in taxes are being considered in association with this issue.

"The City has proactively engaged the union representation and membership of those employees potentially impacted," said Deputy City Manager Andrew Haines. "If the RFP process for outsourced services is determined to provide a high level of service as well as significant cost savings, then we want to try to be as fair as possible to affected employees. Whether through retirement incentives, or transfers into other City department operations, our desire is to find an amicable landing spot for each colleague."

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