



CITY OF DELRAY BEACH

COMMISSION ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Commissioners
FROM: Dr. Ana Puszkin-Chevlin, Sustainability Officer
THROUGH: Mark R. Lauzier, City Manager; India J. Adams, Assistant City Manager
SUBJECT: Textile Recycling Program
DATE: September 11, 2018

SUMMARY:

The average American discards 70 pounds of clothing annually, but less than 15% is recycled. Thrift store donation centers provide one way to donate clothing, but they are inconvenient, as residents must make a destination trip and their hours of operations are limited. Additionally, they do not accept all forms of textile. In order to support the City's goal of adopting sustainable practices that reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and conserve resources, the City began exploring implementing a Textile Recycling Program to increase recycled tonnage and accomplish goals proposed by the 2009 Green Task Force Report in Recommendation 8 and the City's Comprehensive Plan.

BACKGROUND:

During the summer of 2015, a textile recycling program was proposed for Delray Beach involving a for-profit company collecting donated textile materials in outdoor bins and paying the city for the exclusive right to locate collection bins throughout the City. At an August 2015 City Commission Meeting, Goodwill Industries raised concerns that the proposed program would impact their operations and impair their ability to provide services in the community. The item was tabled pending additional meetings with stakeholders. In October and November of 2016, city staff met with not-for-profit organizations and the for-profit company to discuss a potential textile recycling program and forge a collaborative approach. Between November of 2016 and March of 2017, a Textile Recycling Program concept was developed (See attached Textile Recycling PDR document) and a scope of services was developed for a Request for Proposals (RFP).

The Textile Recycling Program RFP was issued in January 2018 with a closing date of February 2018. Two proposals were received, and a selection committee made a recommendation to award in May 2018. The GIAB was briefed at six board meetings and has remained steadfast in support of the proposed program. Additionally, several South Florida cities, including Miami Beach, Sunrise and Boynton Beach have adopted similar programs.

The Textile Recycling Program, as described in the attached presentation (Attachment A), is based on deployment of 10 textile donation bins at pre-selected city-owned locations, where the bins can be easily monitored for cleanliness and maintenance issues. Although these types of bins are sometimes perceived as undesirable, the program was cautiously advanced with a 10-bin limit, as it was viewed to have "environmental and economic benefits". The program was designed to require the vendor to provide all the marketing and outreach, and participate in City organized sustainability events.

CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT & FUNDING SOURCE:

If awarded, the City could receive \$10,000 annually or \$50,000 over the initial 5-year contract period for the opportunity to locate the bins.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends proceeding with awarding the contract to the qualified bidder and begin with implementation of the program.