

CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS RUBBISH BILLING

While the City Administration and Council have taken steps to contain the expenses of the City by reducing the number of employees, by cutting the hours worked by the remaining employees; by waiting longer to replace aging vehicles, trucks and equipment; and by cutting costs in contractual and supplies; the stark reality is that more needs to be done to improve its overall financial health and to maintain effective safety and service forces.

One of the measures deemed necessary was to have residents pay for part of the cost of rubbish service. This is a common practice in many communities. The double digit increases of this expense have had a huge impact on the City's budget, even though the current bid amount is one of the lowest in the area.

To help you understand this new program, the following are some frequently asked questions with answers.

1. **Who will be billed?**

Every home owner in the City of Richmond Heights will receive a bill.

2. **Whose responsibility is it to pay the bill for rubbish pickup?**

It is the responsibility of the home owner. If a rental home is involved, it remains the home owner's responsibility.

3. **By what authority is the City requiring every home owner to pay for rubbish pickup?**

City Codified Ordinance 951.07 authorizes the City to require home owners to have rubbish picked up by a City contractor and for home owners to pay for this service. This Ordinance is a public health, safety and general welfare power granted to cities by the home rule provisions of the Ohio Constitution.

4. **What is the billing cycle?**

The billing cycle is quarterly. The quarters are January, February, and March; April, May, and June; July, August, and September; and October, November, and December.

5. **Who will be sending out the bills?**

The billing will be processed by Republic Services. Their phone number and hours of operation are listed in question 12.

6. **Where do I send the payment?**

The payment will be made and sent to Republic Services.

7. **When is the effective date of this change?**

It is effective July 1, 2010, and the home owner will be billed effective July 1, 2010.

8. **How much will this cost me?**

The first quarter bill will have two months at a rate of \$8.50 per month and one month at a rate of \$8.89, for a total of \$25.89.

The next three quarterly bills will be at a monthly rate of \$8.89, for a total of \$26.67.

The fifth quarter bill will have two months at \$8.89 per month and one month at a rate of \$9.31, for a total of \$27.09.

Thereafter, the quarterly bills will be at a monthly rate of \$9.31, for a total of \$27.93.

The final quarter bill of this contract will be for two months (July and August 2012), at a monthly rate of \$9.31, for a total of \$18.62. The City will have a new contract in place before that billing cycle and if it is with the same company, then the new rate would be added for the third month of that quarter bill.

9. **How will this help?**

The City will save two thirds of the rubbish cost by having the home owners pay for part of the cost of rubbish service, allowing for the rest of the city services to remain at their current levels.

10. **Are there any special services for the elderly or the disabled?**

A special service of having the rubbish containers picked up at the garage instead of at the street can be arranged by contacting Republic Services. Their phone number and hours are listed in the next question.

11. **What if my property is uninhabited?**

Call Republic Services as listed in question 12 and inform them of this fact. Republic will notify the City and the City will inspect the property to ascertain if it is uninhabited.

12. **Who should I call with questions or concerns, or to make a complaint about the service?**

Call the Republic Services customer service at 216-441-6300 or 1-800-968-7789; Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.