

2. Open Public Testimony

Gresham Refuse and Recycling Haulers

MEMORANDUM

TO: City of Gresham Mayor Stovall and Members of the City Council

FROM: Gresham's Licensed Refuse and Recycling Haulers

DATE: May 30, 2025

RE: Gresham City Council June 3, 2025 Meeting, Agenda Item E-1; Requesting Support of Resolution No. 3653 A Resolution Establishing Fees and Charges for Chapter 7 of the Gresham Revised Code for Solid Waste and Medical Waste Collection Service and Repealing Resolution No. 3605

This letter is sent on behalf of the five licensed companies (haulers) that provide solid waste and recycling collection services in Gresham. The haulers provide this written testimony in support of the proposed solid waste rates as presented by city staff.

Who are we? Gresham's licensed haulers are Arrow Sanitary, WC; Gresham Sanitary Service; Hoodview Disposal and Recycling, WC; Rockwood Solid Waste, and WM. All of these companies work cooperatively with city staff to provide modern and efficient waste collection services that including garbage, recycling, yard debris and Recycle+ at reasonable rates. The licensees greatly appreciate all the work of city leadership and staff to help manage solid waste issues.

Licensed Haulers – Through the licensed system, the city regulates all the haulers, their services, and their rates. This system ensures that no matter where a person lives in the community (urban or rural), each person will pay the same rates and receive same quality of collection service. Gresham's haulers proudly partner with the City of Gresham to provide equitable, affordable, and environmentally responsible operations. This commitment has been seen and felt during ice storms, fires, and a global pandemic.

Rate Review – Every year the haulers engage in a robust rate review process. The licensed haulers provide detailed reports and the city reviews hundreds of data points before the city sets collection rates. The haulers support this process and recognize its importance for the integrity of the licensed system. And so, the people of Gresham know they are getting a service at a rate that is fair. Through this process:

- The city's licensed haulers worked cooperatively with the city providing detailed financial information.
- The city's rate consultant reviewed the financial information and rates to determine cost of service and projecting cost for the coming year. The haulers and city staff collectively discussed the calculations and projections ensuring accuracy for both the haulers and the ratepayers.
- Regarding "rate of return" the City of Gresham has a range of 8-10% with a target of 9% for licensed haulers. The rate of return is not the same as "profit." Haulers pay for corporate taxes, make capital investments, and cover unexpected shortfalls from the rate of return.

- The haulers believe that the rate review and setting process has the right balance of independent review and collaboration to assure reasonable rates for the haulers for their service and to the Gresham customers they serve.

Conclusion – Regardless of the challenges confronting us, whether it is a global pandemic, ice, or wildfire smoke, over the decades Gresham haulers have consistently worked in collaboration with the City of Gresham staff and stakeholders to efficiently and effectively address challenges with safe, sustainable results.

We ask that the Gresham City Council adopt the rates as presented by staff in Resolution No. 3653. We look forward to partnering with the city into the future and we appreciate the opportunity to serve Gresham. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Arrow Sanitary, WC
Gresham Sanitary Service
Hoodview Disposal and Recycling, WC
Rockwood Solid Waste and
WM