



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Bureau of Solid Waste Facilities Update

Friday, July 26, 2024

Background:

On Tuesday, July 23, 2024, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) released a detailed report citing poor work conditions at nine (9) Department of Public Works (DPW) facilities. The findings of the OIG report are deeply concerning, and we at DPW do not take the work conditions of our teams lightly. While the report identifies several minor repairs, it is important to note that many of our facilities require a complete overhaul. Our facilities have been neglected for multiple years, and we have set aside separate funding – over \$20 million – to address major renovations.

In addition to addressing our aging infrastructure, we cannot dismiss the responsibility of our leadership to maintain a positive and safe work environment. We understand the importance of the findings and are dedicated to improving the work conditions and infrastructure of our facilities for every DPW employee.

Currently, DPW is working closely with the Department of General Services (DGS) and other support agencies to prioritize and complete work orders for the minor repairs at these facilities. The two facilities that house and support the City's mixed refuse and recycling collection crews (Western Sanitation Yard and Eastern Sanitation Yard) are the top priorities given the demanding conditions these staff face during their workdays.

This report is intended to serve as a status update for repairs and improvements that have been made at DPW facilities since the release of the OIG on July 23, 2024.

Western Sanitation Yard (701 Reedbird Avenue)

The trash bin containers (*OIG report Figures 3-4*) used for storing ice, bottled waters and Gatorades were replaced with ice chests on July 11, 2024. Supervisors stock the ice chests prior to crews arriving and replenish throughout the day. Additionally, supervisors are stocked with supplies in their vehicles and can replenish crews while they are on their routes.



The ice machine and refrigerator in the employee breakroom area (*Figures 6-7*) were repaired and installed on July 11, 2024.



The broken sink faucet in the men's locker room (*Figures 14-15*) was replaced on July 25, 2024.



Furniture inside the men's locker room was replaced on July 26, 2024.



A Charm City Circulator bus was secured on July 26, 2024, to serve as a temporary cooling station for staff while permanent repairs are made to the buildings' HVAC systems. Those repairs are currently underway for the HVAC systems in both the locker room and administrative office trailer buildings.



Eastern Sanitation Yard (6101 Bowleys Lane)

The trash bin containers (*OIG report Figures 20-21*) used for storing ice, bottled waters and Gatorades were replaced with ice chests on July 11, 2024. Supervisors stock the ice chests prior to crews arriving and replenish throughout the day. Additionally, supervisors are stocked with supplies in their vehicles and can replenish crews while they are on their routes.



Toilet paper (*Figures 37-38*) was made available in the men's restrooms on July 24, 2024.



A Charm City Circulator bus was secured on July 26, 2024, to serve as a temporary cooling station for staff while permanent repairs are made to the buildings' HVAC systems. Those repairs are currently underway.



General Updates

The 3,700 high-vis moisture wear T-shirts that were ordered on June 26, 2024, were delivered on July 24, 2024. The shirts have been distributed to all Bureau of Solid Waste facilities for staff to use.



Long-term plans:

Long-term plans to address infrastructure improvements at our Solid Waste facilities are underway and are an integral part of the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP includes over \$20 million in facility renovations/improvements and over \$42 million for building brand new facilities. DPW also designated \$1.42 million in ARPA funding for facility improvements. Long-term improvements are needed at all facilities, and the following dates are projections and subject to change.

- Western Sanitation Yard (Reedbird/Cherryhill) - \$8.1M
 - Design completion Q1 2025
 - Construction to begin Q2 2026
- Eastern Sanitation Yard (Bowleys) - \$2.1M
 - Design completion Q2 2025
 - Construction to begin Q3 2026
- Southeast Sanitation Yard (Kane Street) - \$7.8M
 - Design completion Q1 2025
 - Construction to begin Q1 2026
- Health & Safety Improvements at Solid Waste Facilities - \$3.2M

- Locker room and bathroom upgrades - \$1.42M (ARPA)

The CIP also includes funding for new facilities such as the Eastside Transfer Station, expansion of the Quarantine Road Landfill, and a new composting facility. All dates are projections and subject to change.

- Eastside Transfer Station - \$16.5M
 - Design Completion Q2 2025 (to be located at the Eastern Sanitation Yard)
 - Construction to begin Q3 2026
- Quarantine Road Landfill - \$20.7M
 - Project underway
- Aerated Static Composting Facility - \$5M
 - (to be located at the Eastern Sanitation Yard)