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Contact: David Rafter, Public Information Officer
(954) 630-4207 (office) or (954) 907-6757 (cell)

OAKLAND PARK ANNOUNCES 2011 SOLID WASTE UPDATES

OAKLAND PARK, Fla….(December 24, 2010) – As part of ongoing efforts to increase efficiency and provide service to more than 4,000 additional residential customers, the City's Public Works staff is implementing a revised routing system for the collections of refuse, recyclables and bulk trash. **The revised routes will take effect on January 3.**

During the Fiscal Year 2010 budget process, the City Commission approved the City's Solid Waste Division assuming responsibility for collecting refuse, recycling and bulk in the areas annexed to Oakland Park in 2005. The current solid waste service vendors in the annexed areas (All Service Refuse and Waste Management) have been informed their contracts for service will not be renewed.

The City's Solid Waste Division staff spent part of the Holiday Season delivering more 4,077 new 96-gallon refuse carts to customers in the annexed areas. The vendor quoted a cost of $18,297 to deliver the carts to customers, but the City opted to have staff provide this service at an estimated cost of $3,000 to save tax payers more than $15,000.

Residents in the annexed areas can begin utilizing their new refuse carts January 3 which is the first day of service from the City's Solid Waste Division.

The new refuse carts included a welcome letter in English and Spanish, as well as the 2011 Solid Waste handbook. The booklet provides residents with information on Solid Waste services and provides color coded maps which display the days the City provides refuse cart collection, bulk trash collection, and recycling.

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Oakland Park's Public Works Director Dave Womacks anticipates a positive fiscal and environmental impact for the City as a result of the new routing systems.

"The revised collection routes will be more efficient and reduce the number of large collection vehicles on neighborhood streets," Womacks said. "This will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve safety in residential neighborhoods."

Womacks added Oakland Park will no longer have to pay the contracted vendors an amount which was greater than the City charges the customers for solid waste and recycling services. The savings realized by Oakland Park assuming responsibility for solid waste services in the annexed areas allowed the City to significantly reduce refuse cart service rates in Fiscal Year 2010 in anticipation of these future savings.

In a presentation at the December 15 City Commission meeting, Womacks provided an update and instructions.

"Refuse carts must be placed at the curb prior to 7 a.m. on the day of collection with the handle facing away from the street. Carts should not be placed within three feet of any obstacles or directly under low-hanging overhead wires. All refuse is to fit inside the cart and the lid closed. Since the City utilizes an automated system cart collection, no refuse can be placed on top of or outside around the cart. The carts may be placed at the curb the night before their designated collection day, but must be removed from the curb by 11 p.m. of the collection day."

Womacks encourages residents to dispose of their old trash cans with their bulk trash and they will be collected and recycled through the City's bulk collection program.

The City's revised bulk collection is based on a designated collection week each month. The residents can refer to the handbook to identify their collection zone for the week during the month bulk trash is collected. Bulk items should not be placed at the curb earlier than 48 hours before the bulk trash collection week.

Oakland Park's single-stream weekly recycling services will also be provided for both residential and commercial customers in the annexed areas. The complete recycling guidelines and collection days can also be found in the handbook.

The City hired five additional Refuse Service Operators to meet the service needs of the annexed areas in an efficient manner. For more information on Oakland Park's Solid Waste services, please call **954-630-4452** or log on to: www.oaklandparkfl.org

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