

Communication from Public

Name: Concerned in Lincoln Heights

Date Submitted: 09/26/2025 07:34 AM

Council File No: 23-0600-S9

Comments for Public Posting: I cannot support such a drastic sanitation rate increase as the one proposed. While I recognize that costs of living, labor, and innovation have risen over the past two decades—and that some increase is necessary to modernize infrastructure and support sustainability—the scale of this hike is unreasonable. Instead of gradual adjustments, the City has allowed rates to sit flat since 2008 and is now asking residents to absorb the full impact all at once. The City presents the lack of increases since 2008 almost as if it were a benefit to residents, but in reality it reflects a missed opportunity for responsible, long-term planning. The flyer lists a range of services, but not all of them are universally relevant or accessible. For example, Christmas tree recycling applies only to some households, and there are just six SAFE Centers citywide for hazardous waste—with one currently closed. For many residents, these options are not convenient or practical, yet the costs are shared equally. While I do appreciate the one-day events, the marketing has been insufficient and limits awareness and participation. As a small household, we don't even use weekly trash or recycling pickup, yet we are billed the same as larger households generating far more waste. A phased and usage-sensitive model would be fairer to residents while still supporting the City's needs. I also wonder: are there any studies or data in place to monitor the amount of trash collected on a weekly basis? Quantitative data is essential for informed decision making. It's also important to look ahead: what happens after 2029—less than four years away? Will there be another sharp increase? What is the 5-, 10-, or 15-year plan, and what innovations are being pursued to build a more sustainable system? Finally, education must go beyond passive flyers and social media. Not everyone is connected in these ways, and “digital fatigue” is real. Actionable community engagement is needed. Direct outreach that helps residents reduce waste, recycle effectively, and make smarter consumption choices. This should also extend to e-waste and other materials that aren't currently well served or well understood. At the end of the day, the root of trash is consumer behavior, and lasting change depends on shifting those habits. If the City approaches this with phased increases, transparent planning, accessible services, and active community engagement, residents will be far more willing to

support the changes and work together toward a cleaner, more sustainable Los Angeles. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the conversation.