



CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

MICHAEL SIGUR
ACTING MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CURBSIDE RECYCLING IN KENNER APPROVED, COULD BEGIN IN 60 TO 90 DAYS

Kenner, LA. – Kenner Acting Mayor Michael Sigur signed an order Thursday night authorizing the return of curbside recycling for the first time in more than a decade.

The City Council previously approved a new 10-year garbage contract with Ramelli Waste. That contract made it possible for Kenner to begin curbside recycling as soon as the \$22,000 monthly cost was secured.

During a ceremony at Thursday's Kenner City Council meeting, Sigur signed the task order indicating that the money was in place and instructing Ramelli to begin ordering the recycling bins necessary to begin the weekly service.

"I have had many residents of District 2 ask about the return of curbside recycling, and I know it is something that many other council members have also been asked about," Sigur said.

Ramelli officials have estimated the service could begin in 60 to 90 days. Sigur said residents will get plenty of notice before the first curbside pickups begin.

Sigur applauded Ramelli officials for contract negotiations that clearly benefitted both parties. Kenner now pays \$10.98 per household for garbage pickup - the same price the city has been paying and one of the lowest monthly charges in the metropolitan area.

The cost for the first year of curbside recycling will be largely paid for with inducements offered during contract negotiations by Ramelli. Company officials agreed to waive an automatic increase in the first year only of the contract based on the Consumer Price Index. Ramelli officials also waived the right to seek any gasoline price adjustments, and additional savings will come by discontinuing the current recycling program offered at three locations in the city. Those savings total \$14,000 per month and the rest of the money for recycling comes from savings due to employees taking jobs with former Mayor Michael Yenni in Jefferson Parish. The bulk of that savings came from Yenni's \$72,000 salary.

Sigur said he also was excited about another inducement included in the contract - a drop-off recycling center. Council members must first find the money for such a facility - similar to the one operated by Jefferson Parish on David Drive in Metairie. However, Ramelli has agreed to pay for the cost of an employee to staff that location. In addition, the drop-off location will include a chipper that can turn leaves, limbs and other woody waste into mulch. Bags of mulch will then be offered free to Kenner residents.

"I know that the rest of the City Council and I will now work hard to find the money to build the drop-off location," Sigur said.

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