City of Malden
Trash and Recycling
Update on Proposal for Overhaul

Mayor Gary Christenson
January 2020
Problems We are Trying to Solve

• Current recycling ‘bins’ just don’t work, resulting in Trash ‘all over our streets’ on trash day
• Current dual stream recycling system is not resident friendly
• The lack of an option to blue bags has led to an increase in contamination in recycling
  – No ‘convenient’ option to dispose of a ‘normal’ amount of trash outside of blue bag purchase
• Uncontained trash bags on the street have resulted in dirtier streets and rodent challenges
In August We Proposed....

• Provide each resident with a 64 Gallon barrel for trash and a 32 gallon single stream recycling barrell

• Replace PAYT bag cost with a $10 per month/per unit charge on water bill
  – 50% discount for seniors

• Overflow stickers for those needing to dispose of additional trash

• Trash ‘holidays’ to facilitate excess trash during peak holiday periods
Resident Feedback

- Conducted resident forum at Senior Center
- Gathered social media feedback so far from hundreds of residents; 600+ Facebook comments
- Feedback from residents through multiple local elected officials campaigning
  - Options to allow for the flexibility currently provided by the PAYT program (ie differing options for differing levels of trash produced)
  - A lidded barrel/toter option
  - Continue to keep the cost in the hands of the producer of the trash
## Some things to like....some things to consider

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Some Residents Really Liked</th>
<th>While Others Didn’t Like</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The conversion to single stream</td>
<td>A non lidded barrel solution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not being forced to buy blue bags</td>
<td>The lack of flexibility with a barrel only approach (some really like the blue bag system and what it does)</td>
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<td>Being provided a City issued barrel</td>
<td>The one size fits all approach and large barrel size, particularly the large trash/smaller recycling barrel combo</td>
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<td>The simplicity of monthly billing for trash services</td>
<td>Putting it on the water bill, transferring responsibility to the property owner</td>
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A Revised Approach

Goal: More flexibility for residents while not signing the city up to fail operationally

✓ Provide each resident with a city issued 32 gallon covered recycling ‘toter’ at no cost
✓ Provide each resident with a city issued 32 gallon covered trash ‘toter’ at no cost
✓ Residents may fill the barrel with resident purchased ‘blue bags’ of the size that works for them
   ✓ If you love the current system, no change; we simply provide you with a container to put it in to deal with issues of bags blowing around, rodents, etc……OR
✓ Resident may instead purchase an annual ‘trash tag’ for $75, affix it to the barrel, and shall then be able to fill up the ‘toter’ with regular household bags
   ✓ Represents a 25% discount over the same capacity of trash bags and ease of convenience
✓ Residents could purchase a second barrel and tag if their capacity exceeds the 32 gallon capacity, or could utilize the blue bags for those weeks where capacity exceeds a single barrel
✓ We would propose working with a third party vendor for mail order fulfillment of the ‘trash tags’, in addition to making them available at city offices
A Great Compromise

- Allows those who feel the current system is serving them well to continue to utilize that system of buying the right size and quantity blue bags
- Reduces the barrel size for trash to a size that will allow us to qualify for state grant funding for barrels
- Provides a meaningful ‘once a year’ option for residents who prefer not to deal with blue bags weekly
- Keeps the cost and accountability for trash generation with the trash producer
- Simplifies greatly the operational/billing process