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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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CITY'S LEAF COLLECTION PROGRAM MAY CONTINUE IF WEATHER COOPERATES

Today is the last scheduled day for the City's loose-leaf collection program. Unfortunately, weather conditions hindered the ability of Public Works to collect leaves to the extent residents have become accustomed to. We recognize many residents have leaves and snow piled up along their street. Gathering up these leaves will be a challenge for all of us.

We appreciate LRS stepping up and offering to extend their curbside yard waste collection program through December. For residents who are able, we encourage you to gather up your yard waste and set it out for collection by LRS. For others, we want you to know that your Public Works Department is evaluating the weather conditions for an opportunity to collect leaves.

The decision to resume loose leaf collection will depend on several factors, most importantly temperature and precipitation. For example, temperatures must remain above freezing for several hours so the leaves are not stuck together with ice and can be gathered by our equipment. Also, we will collect leaves in the rain, however, we will not collect leaves if there is a threat of snow. This is because the same dump trucks used for leaf collection are also used for snow plowing, and we must place snow and ice removal operations above leaf collection throughout the winter. If we can't resume collection this winter, we will consider resuming the program next spring.

The forecast for this weekend calls for warmer weather with some rain. This may afford residents an opportunity to gather leaves for collection next week by LRS. Please place yard waste in biodegradable landscape waste bags, or an open garbage container marked with "YW" or "X", not exceeding 32-gallons and 50-lbs. Next week, temperatures are expected to remain below freezing after Monday with snow on Thursday. Based on this forecast, the decision to resume the leaf collection program will be ongoing.

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