



CITY OF HOUSTON

OFFICE COUNCIL MEMBER JOAQUIN MARTINEZ, DISTRICT I

Recycling Prop A

Summary: Ordinance amending Chapter 39 of the Code of Ordinances City of Houston, TX to require any program, policy, or contract that directly affects the collection, processing, transportation, or disposal of divertible materials-including but not limited to recyclables (e.g., paper, cardboard, plastics, metals, glass) and compostables (e.g., food waste, yard trimmings)-from City of Houston owned or managed landfills, under the Solid Waste Division shall be required to be approved by a majority vote of the Houston City Council. This requirement does not apply to internal staff administrative decisions, including but not limited to employee education programs, staff training initiatives, or other non-binding internal communications.

Background: Recent restructuring of the Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) moved SWMD under the Combined Utility System within Houston Public Works (HPW) and implemented an incremental \$5.00 administrative fee. This reform warrants increased transparency, oversight, and opportunity for public input on possible future changes that may impact the city's recycling programs.

Specific Explanation: This proposed ordinance requires changes to any program, policy or contract that directly affects the collection, processing, transportation or disposal of recyclables to be approved by Houston City Council.

Point of Contact: Edith Santamaria, edith.santamaria@houstontx.gov