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Motion


The Bureau of Sanitation and Environment (LASAN) collects over 4,000 tons per week of material in its blue-bins from approximately 750,000 residential customers. For over 30 years, LASAN was on the forefront in expanding the list of materials accepted in the blue-bin. However, in 2018, with the launch of the China National Sword Policy and similar policies in other jurisdictions, recycling markets worldwide were significantly disrupted and became highly volatile, and many materials that for years had a steady market and value were no longer accepted in some foreign ports leading to market failures. As a result, we saw an increase in costs to dispose of materials, increased investment in domestic processing, and a push to decrease contamination through education and adjustments on items allowed in the blue bin.

Recycling remains a critical component of the City's waste reduction efforts and it is important for the City to understand the current status of the recyclables market and to project future market stability as it contemplates how to achieve state law and local waste diversion and recycling goals.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct LASAN to report on the status of the recyclables market, including:

- o A review of market prices for major recyclable materials since 2018
- o An analysis of the factors that have contributed to market fluctuations
- o An assessment of the impact of market changes on the City's recycling program
- o A forecast of market prices for major recyclable materials
- o An analysis of the factors that are likely to affect market stability in the future
- o Recommendations for strategies to improve market stability

PRESENTED BY:


Katy Varoslavsky
Councilwoman, 5th District

SECONDED BY:



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