



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, N.Y.
DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS

SHAWYN PATTERSON-HOWARD
Mayor

City Hall, One Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon, NY. 10550
(914) 914-665-2343
email:dpwconcerns@mountvernonny.gov

DAMANI L. BUSH
Commissioner

JOHN NUCULOVIC
Deputy Commissioner

RYAN ULRICH
Deputy Commissioner

November 3rd, 2025

Honorable City Council
The City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, New York
(Through the Office of the Mayor)

Re: Authorization to Establish a 'Red' Tag Bulk Item Disposal Program

Dear Board Members,

The Department of Public Works ("DPW") respectfully requests that the above-referenced item be placed on the agenda for consideration at the next scheduled City Council meeting.

Project Background

Oversized household items such as furniture, mattresses, and appliances create operational and cost challenges for the City. These materials cannot be compacted in standard refuse trucks, require additional labor and equipment to collect, and generate higher tipping fees at disposal facilities.

Currently, the cost of collecting and disposing of bulky waste is absorbed within the general tax base, creating an inequitable system where all residents subsidize disposal costs for a small portion of users.

The proposed Red Tag Bulk Item Disposal Program introduces a fair, user-pays model similar to programs in peer municipalities across New York and the region. Under this program, residents will be required to purchase and affix a red disposal tag to any oversized item placed at the curb. The program ensures cost recovery, encourages responsible disposal, and supports a cleaner, more efficient sanitation operation.

Program Structure

The Red Tag Program will utilize a simple, tiered pricing structure to reflect the true handling cost of bulky items:

- **\$12 Tag** – For general household bulky items such as chairs, tables, rolled carpets, bicycles, large furniture, sofas, dressers, and mattresses.
- **\$25 Tag** – For appliances and specialty items such as air conditioning units, snow blowers, and grills (no propane).

Tags will be available for purchase at the Department of Public Works Office. Online purchasing options may also be introduced to enhance accessibility.

This structure is modeled after similar successful programs in nearby localities including Schenectady (NY), Springfield (MA), and Lancaster (PA), which have demonstrated measurable reductions in illegal dumping and improved sanitation efficiency.

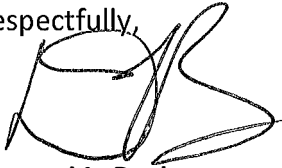
Requested Action

The Department of Public Works respectfully requests that the City Council:

- **Authorize** the establishment of the Red Tag Oversized Item Disposal Program as an official municipal policy for oversized waste disposal.
- **Approve** the proposed fee schedule as outlined above and in the attached program document.
- **Authorize** the Department of Public Works to coordinate the public rollout, including outreach, notice, and tag distribution.
- **Direct** DPW to report back to Council after one year of implementation with data on program participation, revenues, and operational outcomes.

This action will enable the City to recover actual disposal costs, improve fairness in sanitation billing, and promote cleaner neighborhoods through responsible waste management practices.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Damani L. Bush', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Damani L. Bush

Commissioner of Public Works

DB/db