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August 20, 2019

Dear Resident of El Dorado,

On August 19, 2019, the City of El Dorado elected to discontinue the residential recycling program. Recent changes in recycling markets, primarily overseas, have required the City to review its continued support for this program in light of increasing expenses. Other communities throughout the country are experiencing the same difficulties and are also making tough decisions regarding their recycling programs.

The decision by China to significantly limit the amount of recyclable materials has greatly affected the options available to domestic refuse companies, such as the City of El Dorado, who also provide recycling services. The cost of hauling recyclable materials has increased in recent months from \$55 to \$75 per ton, and the price is anticipated to increase to \$90 per ton in September. The cost of taking the material to the Butler County landfill is \$35 per ton.

Residents will see no change to their present refuse service at this time. Households will keep the number of carts currently at their address and will no longer have to sort materials. All items placed in the trash receptacles will be picked up by the City and taken to the landfill instead of being processed for recycling. The landfill has ample capacity to accept increasing amounts of waste generated from discontinuing the recycling program.

Recycling markets have become increasingly volatile over the last year or so as foreign markets have all but ended importation of American recyclable materials. Most of the recyclable materials generated by the United States, except for cardboard and paper, is shipped overseas for processing. China has been the largest market for these materials, but has recently discontinued its acceptance of American materials because the material was determined to be trash and unfit for processing for recyclables.

For the time being, the monthly refuse fee of \$15.75 will not change as a result of this decision, and the Recycling Center will no longer accept materials. As a result of these changes, the City is also exploring the possibility of staffing the compost site to further discourage illegal dumping to ensure that this service remains for the public.

The decision to discontinue the residential recycling program did not come easy for the City Commission or staff. The City has had a good track record of recycling over the years. Unfortunately, external factors have called our hand and we can no longer continue to provide this service to the public sustainably. Questions regarding this decision or implementation thereof may be directed to the Public Works Department at (316) 322-4481.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David B. Dillner".

David B. Dillner  
City Manager