

## **2016 BUDGET INITIATIVE**

### **USING GRID REFUSE EFFICIENCIES TO SUPPORT KEY CITY SERVICES**

From day one, Mayor Emanuel has worked to reform the way Chicago delivers its city services. With a focus on increasing efficiency and improving the quality of resources provided to residents, the Mayor changed the way the city manages its refuse collection. The new grid refuse collection system moved away from non-linear ward geography to routes based on main streets and natural boundaries, similar to garbage collection operations by private haulers. The new grid system allowed the Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation (DSS), in partnership with Laborers' Local 1001, to continue providing the same weekly refuse collection service to residents, while generating approximately \$28 million in annual operational savings. by 2016.

**Redeploying Grid Efficiencies to Support Tree Trimming and Rodent Abatement:** This summer, the City announced that it would be able to further reduce the average daily deployment of refuse trucks from 310 to 292. The changes represent an additional \$9.5 million in operational savings, with which the City will redirect 10 crews to Forestry to help completely eliminate the backlog of tree trimming requests by winter 2016. An additional five crews will be redeployed to Rodent Control in order to guarantee a response time of five days for any request.

#### **BACKGROUND: Mayor Emanuel Identifies \$28 Million in Operational Savings**

Mayor Emanuel first rolled out the grid system for refuse collection in 2013. The grid concentrated sanitation workers in targeted areas of the city each day to create balanced service regions and improve daily collection performance. Since the implementation of the grid system, DSS uses 60 fewer garbage trucks for daily refuse collection, and has identified a total of approximately \$28 million in annual operational savings. Additionally, by working in a grid, it is expected that the City will significantly reduce the expense associated with fuel, vehicle purchases and vehicle maintenance.

#### **Grid Timeline:**

##### **2013**

- DSS rolls out grid in partnership with Laborers' Local 1001 and reduces the number of daily collection trucks from 352 to 317.
- The grid system balances service regions, improves daily collection performance and helps redirect \$18 million in resources to support the expansion of Blue Cart Recycling citywide.

##### **2014**

- DSS begins initial adjustments to the grid and reduces the average daily truck deployment from 317 to 310.
- The crews are redirected to help support DSS' refuse and recycling cart inventory project.

##### **2015**

- Using time-in-alley reports, daily tonnage collection reports and field audits, DSS decides to further reduce the daily deployment of refuse trucks from 310 to 292.
- The refinement identifies an additional \$9.5 million in operational savings.