



## CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

**FROM:** The Office of the City Manager   **DATE:** February XX, 2024  
**SUBJECT:** Authorize execution of an Interlocal Agreement with the North Central Texas Council of Governments for the Solid Waste Grant Program.  
**PRESENTER:** Stefanie Martinez, Director of Neighborhood Services

### **SUMMARY:**

The City of North Richland Hills Neighborhood Services Department was awarded \$32,443.73 in grant funding through the FY2024-2025 Solid Waste Implementation Grant from the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). In order to access grant funds and proceed with the project, the City must enter into an interlocal agreement with NCTCOG. Grant funds will be used to provide cellular security cameras, accessories for the cameras, and educational signage for 23 chronic illegal dumping sites in North Richland Hills. These sites will include City-owned properties, Birdville ISD properties, and private properties.

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

With almost 72,000 residents, North Richland Hills is the fourth largest city in Tarrant County. Code Compliance, a division of the NRH Neighborhood Services Department, includes six full-time code enforcement officers. These officers are responsible for inspecting properties within the city to ensure they comply with health and safety codes.

The City currently attempts to address illegal dumping through public information and education, and through investigation and enforcement of illegal dumping reported from citizens or detected by our code enforcement officers. When a code violation is found, a Code Compliance Officer will encourage voluntary compliance and work out a schedule for correction that is both feasible for the property owner and considerate of the surrounding community. Should voluntary compliance prove ineffective or impossible, a property owner may be subject to a citation or other action (including abatement by the City and the placement of a lien on the property) by the City of North Richland Hills.

Since August 2021, City of North Richland Hills Code Enforcement has worked 886 illegal dumping/accumulation cases on private property within City limits. 34 of those cases required forced compliance, resulting in \$3,486 of fines assessed to facilitate compliance and \$13,704 in abatement costs paid by the City to address outstanding issues.



While some private properties are repeat illegal dumping sites, North Richland Hills mainly encounters chronic illegal dumping in parks, public spaces, and at school properties. NRH Parks Department estimates that they encounter illegal dumping at nine particular sites at least 5-10 times per week, which costs the City an estimated \$8,250/year in cleanup costs. Birdville ISD encounters illegal dumping at eight sites on their property, which costs the school district an estimated \$12,000/year in cleanup costs. This is especially harmful, as neither the City nor the school district can recoup the cost to address these problems through abatement fees or fines when violators cannot be identified. Illegal dumping at public facilities also impacts the community as a whole by creating issues with vector harborage and blight that interferes with users' enjoyment of public spaces. The funding to address illegal dumping on public properties could be used to fund other beneficial services for our entire community.

This grant will provide signage and surveillance at 23 chronic illegal dumping sites for the purpose of discouraging illegal dumping. This will provide a new tool to investigate illegal dumping and hold violators accountable. It is the hope of the City of North Richland Hills that this will reduce illegal dumping practices as a whole in these locations and decrease clean-up costs. There is evidence to support this expectation—the City of Dallas reported these outcomes when a similar project was implemented in that jurisdiction in 2011.

If this project succeeds in reducing the cost to address illegal dumping, the savings will easily fund future maintenance costs. If the project is successful, the City plans to continue to deploy these cameras to improve deterrence, surveillance, and investigation of illegal dumping within North Richland Hills city limits.

The funds requested from this grant will total \$32,443.73. These sites will include City-owned properties, Birdville ISD properties, and private properties. There is no matching required for this grant, but only line items greater than \$500 are eligible for funding; because of this, the City anticipates an estimated \$1,400 in cost matching through in-kind activities including graphic design for signage and installation of the cameras and accessories.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the execution of an Interlocal Agreement with the North Central Texas Council of Governments to accept grant funds and meet project requirements for the 2024-2025 Solid Waste Implementation Grant awarded to City of North Richland Hills.