

Biz trash-pickup costs are piling up

By FRANKIE EDOZIEN

City officials yesterday approved a change in garbage collection rates paid by businesses — a move that could result in major hikes for some commercial establishments.

It's the first revamping since 1997 of the rates that private carters charge businesses.

Under the plan, the current top commercial garbage rate of \$12.20 a cubic yard would stay the same.

But a new provision would allow private carters to charge some businesses by the weight of their trash — up to \$8 per 100 pounds, said José Maldonado, chair of the Business Integrity Commission, which OK'd the new rates.

Some carters equated the new rate based on weight to about \$42 per cubic yard if a business' refuse is heavy.

But Maldonado said adding a rate based on weight, not just volume, would increase competition and keep prices down.

The new rates will likely take effect in September.

David Biderman, of the National Solid Waste Management Association, said that in the past six years, "carters' cost for disposal, labor, insurance, fuel and other operating costs have skyrocketed."

He said current rates make it unprofitable to provide collection services to restaurants and delis, which have heavy waste.