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NEW ROCHELLE  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of New Rochelle, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, at 7:30 P. M., in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 515 North Avenue, New Rochelle, New York, relative to the proposed amendment to Section 163-8.5, Separation and Preparation of Recyclables; Placement for Collection, of Chapter 163, Garbage, Rubbish and Refuse, of the Code of the City of New Rochelle.

Section 163-8.5 is proposed to be amended, as follows:

- d. Separation of leaves and placement for disposal. All persons within the municipality shall, for the period from October 15 through December 31 of each year, separate leaves from other solid waste generated at their premises and, unless the leaves are stored or recycled for composting or mulching on the premises, place the leaves in biodegradable thirty to forty-gallon paper bags or loose in thirty-two gallon containers. (or raked to the curb in long winrows.) Leaves (raked) collected, bagged and left at (to) the curb shall not be mixed with any other yard waste or debris at the curb for collection at such times and dates and in the manner established by the municipality's recycling regulations.

**Note:** Matter in brackets is proposed to be deleted  
Matter underlined and italicized is proposed

All persons interested are invited to attend said Public Hearing or submit written communications to the City Clerk at or before the Public Hearing.

By order of the City Council dated March 18, 2014, Resolution No. 54

Bennie F. Giles, III, City Clerk



## City of New Rochelle, New York

### Leaf Collection Public Hearing April 8th

Dear Neighbor,

The City Council will hold a public hearing on leaf collection policy on Tuesday, April 8 at 7:30 PM. While a public hearing is not legally required to amend the current ordinance, it will provide a valuable opportunity for community input. The purpose of this letter is to give property owners and interested parties the context of the proposed policy change.

The City code currently allows property owners and landscapers to blow or rake leaves into loose piles at the curb for pickup by City crews. This practice has a number of downsides, including:

- **Increased municipal costs** of roughly \$250,000 per year for specialized sanitation equipment and overtime personnel.
- **Safety concerns** from leaf piles blocking traffic, obstructing sidewalks, creating hazardous and slippery conditions, and increasing flooding from blocked storm drains.
- **Negative impact** on water quality through phosphorus and nitrogen leaching into waterways.

Under the proposed change, the pick-up of loose curbside piles would be discontinued, and property owners will have any combination of the following options:

- **Place leaves in bags or containers** for weekly collection (as is currently the practice for yard waste removal)
- **Removal of leaves by landscapers** to leaf collection sites
- **Mulch mowing on site**

Mulch mowing is the preferred alternative. Last year, the City introduced the “**Love ‘Em and Leave ‘Em**” mulch mowing pilot program and it was met with great success. By mulch mowing, property owners can enjoy the benefits of a healthier lawn, save time and effort, and improve the appearance and safety of neighborhoods. Many gardeners and landscapers offer mulch mowing as an option at no additional charge to customers, and mulching blades are inexpensive additions to many standard lawn mowers.

More information about this subject is available at [www.leleny.org](http://www.leleny.org). A similar change was made in the Town of Greenburgh in 2012 [www.sweac.org/love-em-and-leave-em-leaf-mulching](http://www.sweac.org/love-em-and-leave-em-leaf-mulching).

If the City Council approves this policy change, then a major public information and education campaign will unfold this year prior to the leaf collection season.

Please do not hesitate to contact Virginia Picciotto at 914-654-2183 or [vpicciot@newrochelleny.com](mailto:vpicciot@newrochelleny.com) for additional information. The City Council looks forward to receiving public comments on April 8.