



**ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**

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May 30, 2013

Mayor Devine & Common Council Members  
7525 W Greenfield Ave.  
West Allis, WI 53214

**RE: Revised Fees for Weed Cutting**

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

In January of 2010, the Common Council approved a \$150 minimum charge for work done by our contractor (prior to that it was \$60 which was set in October, 2001). This \$150 minimum cost did not reflect our actual cost at the time (when administration and cutting costs are added together) and of course, the cost has increased since.

On the administration side, my staff has researched the actual cost of investigating a property, sending out letters, checking if the work was done, preparing the bill, processing the paperwork and mailing, etc. They have determined that an administration charge of \$200 is more in line with our actual costs. The sanitation division also charges an administration fee of \$200 for garbage problems.

A little while ago, in order to improve response time, we decided to bring grass cutting back in-house instead of using a contractor. Instead of measuring each property to determine grassy area, we are recommending two flat fees for the actual cutting work:

- 1) \$100 flat fee for lots 60 feet wide or less
- 2) \$150 flat fee for lots greater than 60 feet wide

The bottom line, and I hope you agree, is that we don't want to subsidize property owners for not following municipal ordinance and thereby, we get the complaints from those that do comply.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael G. Lewis".

Michael G. Lewis  
Director of Public Works/City Engineer

MGL/mgl