

Department of Public Works

Response

Case # 24-0784-C



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Bureau of Solid Waste Facilities Update

Friday, August 2, 2024

Background:

On Tuesday, July 23, 2024, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) released a detailed report citing poor work conditions at nine (9) Department of Public Works (DPW) facilities. The findings of the OIG report are deeply concerning, and we at DPW do not take the work conditions of our teams lightly. While the report identifies several minor repairs, it is important to note that many of our facilities require a complete overhaul. Our facilities have been neglected for multiple years, and we have set aside separate funding – over \$20 million – to address major renovations.

In addition to addressing our aging infrastructure, we cannot dismiss the responsibility of our leadership to maintain a positive and safe work environment. We understand the importance of the findings and are dedicated to improving the work conditions and infrastructure of our facilities for every DPW employee.

Currently, DPW is working closely with the Department of General Services (DGS) and other support agencies to prioritize and complete work orders for the minor repairs at these facilities. The two facilities that house and support the City's mixed refuse and recycling collection crews (Western Sanitation Yard and Eastern Sanitation Yard) are the top priorities given the demanding conditions these staff face during their workdays.

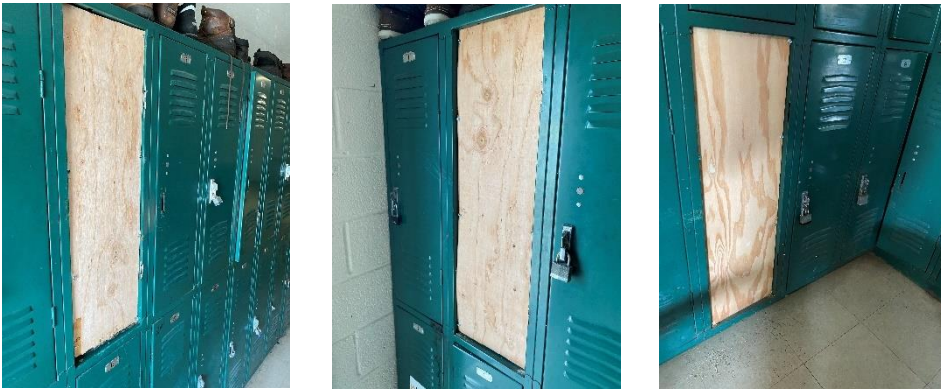
This report is intended to serve as a status update for repairs and improvements that have been made at DPW facilities the week of July 29, 2024.

Western Sanitation Yard (701 Reedbird Avenue)

On August 1, 2024, the Charm City Circulator bus was replaced with a more mobile trailer that will be used as a cooling station and rest area space for employees. The trailer is furnished with folding tables and chairs.



The broken locker doors in the men's locker room were removed and replaced with plywood. These lockers will not be in use and staff will be returning to paint the plywood to match the color of the lockers.

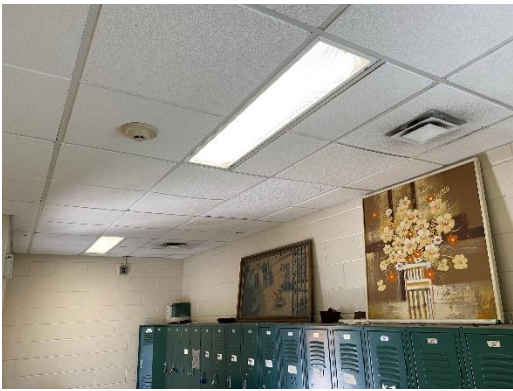


The soap dispensers in the men's and women's locker rooms were replaced.



The air vents were cleaned inside the men's and women's locker rooms, ceiling tiles were replaced and/or restored to their original position, and light bulbs were replaced.





Eastern Sanitation Yard (6101 Bowleys Lane)

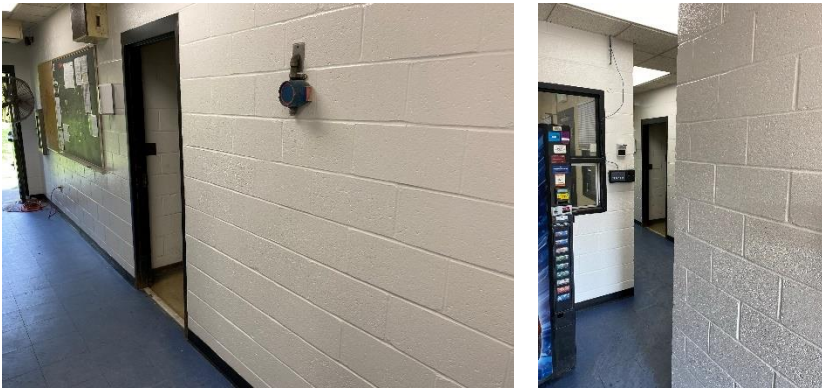
On August 1, 2024, the Charm City Circulator bus was replaced with a mobile trailer that will be used as a cooling station and rest area space for employees. The trailer is furnished with folding tables and chairs.



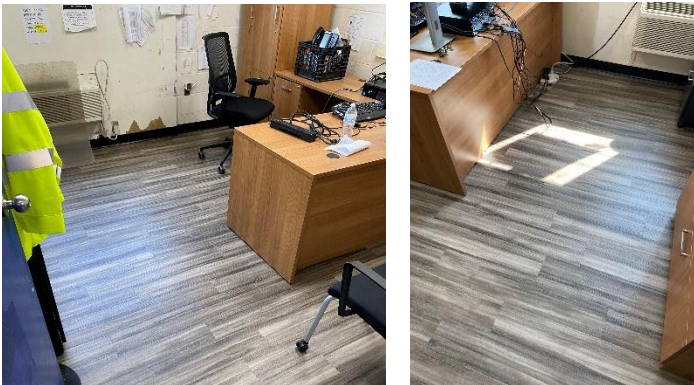
The damaged lockers (*Figure 29*) were repaired and returned to working condition.



Painting of the hallway started (*Figure 43*) with one side of the building completed. The remaining half of the building is expected to be completed next week.



Flooring was replaced in two offices.



Southeastern Sanitation Yard (111 Kane Street)

The HVAC system for the administrative areas of the building has been serviced on multiple occasions but is still experiencing some issues. On August 2, 2024, staff began setting up portable AC units while the HVAC system is further assessed.



Northwest Transfer Station (5030 Reisterstown Road)

The employee tent (*Figure 160*) was replaced.



General Updates

The City's contracted cleaning company began performing site assessments for all solid waste facilities identified in the OIG report. The company will be tasked to perform deep cleaning at each facility and regular cleanings on a weekly basis. Staff within the agency will perform routine cleaning on a day-to-day basis.

Long-term plans:

Long-term plans to address infrastructure improvements at our Solid Waste facilities are underway and are an integral part of the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP includes over \$20 million in facility renovations/improvements and over \$42 million for building brand new facilities. DPW also designated \$1.42 million in ARPA funding for facility improvements. Long-term improvements are needed at all facilities, and the following dates are projections and subject to change.

- Western Sanitation Yard (Reedbird/Cherryhill) - \$8.1M
 - Design completion Q1 2025
 - Construction to begin Q2 2026
- Eastern Sanitation Yard (Bowleys) - \$2.1M
 - Design completion Q2 2025
 - Construction to begin Q3 2026
- Southeast Sanitation Yard (Kane Street) - \$7.8M
 - Design completion Q1 2025
 - Construction to begin Q1 2026
- Health & Safety Improvements at Solid Waste Facilities - \$3.2M
- Locker room and bathroom upgrades - \$1.42M (ARPA)

The CIP also includes funding for new facilities such as the Eastside Transfer Station, expansion of the Quarantine Road Landfill, and a new composting facility. All dates are projections and subject to change.

- Eastside Transfer Station - \$16.5M
 - Design Completion Q2 2025 (to be located at the Eastern Sanitation Yard)
 - Construction to begin Q3 2026
- Quarantine Road Landfill - \$20.7M
 - Project underway

- Aerated Static Composting Facility - \$5M
 - (to be located at the Eastern Sanitation Yard)