

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Stormwater and Solid Waste Non Advalorem Assessments

- Question** **What are these assessments for?**
Answer Solid Waste Assessment (\$245.76/unit) is for costs relating to the collection, disposal and management of solid waste (trash). Stormwater Assessment (\$75.60/unit) is for stormwater related essential services within the City.
- Question** **Are these new assessments, "I've never seen them before"?**
Answer No, these assessments have been around since the 1960's. Prior to 2008 The CofLW previously billed these amounts on utility bills.
- Question** **How and when were these assessments removed from utility bills?**
Answer City Commission passed resolution no. 62-2007 on November 20, 2007 in regards to taking the assessments off the utility bills and adding them to the property owner TRIM notices. These were added to tax bills for the 2008 Tax Roll.
- Question** **I already have an assessment from SWA.**
Answer The SWA Assessment is a Palm Beach County assessment from the Solid Waste Authority (land-fill).
- Question** **Is this a tax?**
Answer No, it is an assessment (charge) for services for garbage pick-up and stormwater run-off and drainage in to the streets.
- Question** **There is a correction to my tax bill. What if I want to pay my tax bill to receive the discount and the corrections have not been made?**
Answer Any corrections made to the assessment roll after the final tax roll has been certified will have a 30 day extension of the November discount (4%) when the taxes are unpaid.
- Question** **Why is my vacant property being charged for 1 unit of Solid Waste and 1 unit of Storm water?**
Answer According to the resolution vacant residential properties are charged for 1 unit of storm water and 1 unit of solid waste only. "Undeveloped Property" means property which has not been altered from its natural state by dredging, filling, removal of trees and vegetation or other activities which have disturbed or altered the topography or soils on the property. It is the City's determination that no vacant residential property within the City is "Undeveloped."
- Question** **For purposes of Lake Worth Refuse how is a property determined to be commercial or residential for the purposes of charges?**

Answer Commercial property is defined as any "Commercial, industrial and governmental use property not paying disposal (tipping) fee charges direct to SWA (1) Commercial, industrial and governmental properties include motels and hotels, and multi unit buildings with (9) units or more." All non commercial properties under 8 units are charged on the tax roll as an assessment.

Question **For Commercial Stormwater how is the amount determined?**

Answer The amount for the commercial stormwater assessment is based on a calculation of the impervious (paved) area of the parcel. Impervious is defined as "impermeable surfaces, such as pavements or rooftops, which prevent the infiltration of water into the soil." The impervious sq. feet of the property is determined and is then divided by 1748 sq. feet to determine the number of units that should be charged. 1748 sq. feet constitutes 1 unit for commercial stormwater charges.

Question **The number of units assessed on my property is incorrect, what should I do?**

Answer

The determination of the number of units and "developed or undeveloped" property is made using the best available data from the Property Appraiser's Office. If the Property Appraiser updates the information and re-assesses the property the City can send a correction notice to Palm Beach County for the current tax year. The resident must provide a correction notice from the Property Appraiser's Office for this to occur.

Question **I have a well or drainage system already in place on my property, is there any way to reduce the amount that I am being charged for storm water?**

Answer

The City does have a stormwater mitigation program that is operated by the Public Services Department. An application can be filled out and submitted to 1749 3rd Ave S Lake Worth, FL 33460. For specific questions regarding the program contact Jamie Brown at 561-586-1720.