ITEM NO. 13

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 1, 2008

TO: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Patricia Allison, City Manager's Office

SUBJECT: **REQUEST BY MAYOR WOOD FOR A PRESENTATION BY ESTER RILEA REGARDING A "PAY AS YOU THROW" PILOT PROGRAM, WITH POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF**

Backup material for this item, if any, will be distributed separately.

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Contributors: Lyric Wallwork Winik and Mark Naymik

ENVIRONMENT

Should You Pay For Your Garbage?

If you have more trash than can fit in a single can, should you pay extra to get rid of it? You would if you lived in Austin, Tex., one of thousands of communities nationwide that has switched to a "Pay As You Throw" (PAYT) system. Traditionally, households paid a set yearly fee for trash disposal, or the costs were covered by property taxes. But 25% of Americans now pay for trash collection based on how much they use it, the way most of us pay for water and electricity.

Some towns now charge by the bag

PAYT systems vary widely, with some towns using special bags, cans, or stickers and charging anywhere from less than a dollar to more than $2 per bag. Advocates of PAYT cite studies that show it encourages recycling and reduces the waste in landfills by up to 17%. Opponents argue that it penalizes those on fixed incomes and that it can lead to illegal garbage dumping. They also point out that store packaging accounts for a lot of consumer waste and say it's unfair to make households foot the bill to dispose of it. In Austin, pick-up costs $11.75 a month for a 30-gallon can or $14.50 for 60 gallons; anything that won't fit costs extra. Resident Jacci Howard Bear says she now thinks twice before throwing things away, especially if they could be recycled. "Extra garbage stickers cost $2 each," she says. "Trust me, it adds up fast." Tell us: Should Americans pay by the bag for garbage disposal? Vote at *Parade.com/intel*

Legal Notice Legal Notice

YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO A REFUND IF YOU BOUGHT A CAR OR OTHER VEHICLE AND BOUGHT CREDIT INSURANCE ISSUED BY UNIVERSAL UNDERWRITERS LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

A class action case has been settled against Universal Underwriters Life Insurance Company ("UULIC") on behalf of those who purchased credit insurance and then paid off their loans early but did not get an "unearned premium" refund.

WHAT IS CREDIT INSURANCE?
Many people buy credit life insurance when they buy a car – to pay off the loan if they die. Many people buy credit disability insurance – to make the payments if they become disabled and can't work.

WHAT IS AN "UNEARNED PREMIUM"?
When credit insurance is bought, the entire premium for the life of the loan is paid up front, in a single premium. The premium is earned over the life of the loan. If the loan is paid early, there is nothing more to insure, and part of the single up-front premium is unearned and must be returned to the insured who paid the premium when he/she financed the purchase of the car.

WHAT IS THE CASE ABOUT?
The lawsuit claimed that UULIC failed to refund unearned premiums when the insured loan was terminated prior to expiration of the loan period.

WHAT ARE THE TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT?
UULIC has agreed to pay $49 million into a Settlement Fund. Payments to Class Members, administrative costs, and attorneys' fees and expenses will be paid out of that Fund. Eligible class members may receive up to 133 1/3% of the refund due them from this Fund.

WHO REPRESENTS CLASS MEMBERS?
The Superior Court of Muscogee County, Georgia has appointed attorneys to represent you as Class Counsel. You do not have to pay these lawyers. Participation in this settlement costs you nothing at all.

WHAT ARE MY LEGAL RIGHTS?
You are already a potential Class Member and you do not have to do anything in order to qualify for a refund. If you would like to confirm that you are a Potential Class Member, you can call the number below or visit the website below. If you do not wish to be a member of the Class, you must send a letter requesting to be excluded. That letter has to be postmarked by September 22, 2008. You can also object to the settlement, if do not exclude yourself. To object, you must

YOUR HEALTH

How MDs Learn About Drugs

Most doctors get information about new drugs from representatives of pharmaceutical companies. Some patient advocates worry that the information is one-sided and that the small gifts and free lunches offered by drug reps may influence doctors. Sens. Herb Kohl (D., Wis.) and Dick Durbin (D., Ill.) have introduced a bill that would use federal money to train independent health professionals to provide drug info. Universities also would get grants to develop standardized information packets on specific drugs.

Senators say