

CITY OF SOUTHAVEN

Top of Mississippi
Office of the Mayor

DARREN MUSSELWHITE
MAYOR



8710 Northwest Drive
Southaven, MS 38671
Phone: 662.393.6939
Fax: 662.393.7294
dmusselwhite@southaven.org

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Dear Southaven Resident:

The City of Southaven has changed the way the City will fund sanitation services which include garbage and rubbish collection beginning in **January, 2015**.

Since 2001, the City's sanitation services have been paid with property tax millage. Southaven has been one of the few cities, if not the only city, in the State of Mississippi that has funded sanitation this way. State law limits the millage that a city can allocate for sanitation to 4 mills which equals about \$1,840,000 (\$460,000 per mill) in Southaven now. The current cost for Southaven's sanitation is about 5.35 mills or \$2,464,400. For this reason, the City can no longer fund these services with property tax millage and will change to a **\$12 monthly fee** for all households.

Obviously, the tax millage previously used for sanitation will be available for other purposes. The Mayor and Board recently adopted the City's budget for 2015 which specifies that this millage will be used for the following purposes to improve our City:

- 4 New Police Officers
- 2 New Firemen
- 3 New Code Enforcement Officers
- 2 New Emergency Dispatchers
- \$1,000,000 for Street Asphalt Overlays
- \$500,000 for Drainage Improvement

The \$12 sanitation fee will be added to the utility bill for Southaven customers and by a separate bill for households that do not use Southaven utilities. This new billing process will begin in January, 2015 resulting in all Southaven households receiving their first or amended bill from mid-January to early February.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.