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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Township of Readington Announces Future Waste and Recycling Plan Following Comprehensive Analysis and Resident Input

READINGTON, NJ - November 6, 2023 - The Township Committee of Readington announces a significant decision regarding the future of waste and recycling management in the community, effective January 1, 2024, onward. This decision follows a thorough analysis of costs and invaluable input from the Township's residents, collected through a survey conducted in October.

Background and History:

The current waste and recycling management contract is set to expire on December 31, 2023. In light of this, the Township Committee initiated a comprehensive review to evaluate the best course of action for the future including a public bid in July 2023. Two bids were received, with Republic Services being the low bidder, presenting significant cost increases and the termination of the sticker program.

Current Situation, Survey, and Analysis:

A total of 1,055 Readington residents participated in the survey, providing invaluable feedback. The survey results revealed the following key findings:

- A majority of respondents identified cost as a significant factor when providing their input or ranking.
- Many residents expressed their satisfaction with the current program, particularly the use of stickers.
- The majority of respondents indicated a lack of understanding regarding bidding processes, budgets, and the Township's current payments.

Analysis of Cost Options:

Recognizing the survey's limitations, concurrent analysis was undertaken to provide more accurate and useful information, culminating in a final recommendation.

After an evaluation of the available options, with consideration for an average house assessment of \$450,000 and a 65-gallon container example, the following options were identified:

- Option #1: Homeowner Contract / Subscription
- Option #2: Township Contract with Republic (No sticker program)
- Option #3: Private Waste & Recycling Utility

The Township's analysis concluded that the individual subscription approach would be the most beneficial (offering the lowest cost) for approximately 90%. This strategic shift is expected to save the Township \$616,028 annually in its budget.

If the Township were to choose Option #2, the Township would need to conduct and pay for a special CAP referendum (election) for 2024 and potentially 2025 and 2026 in order to increase the budget to meet the cost of the contracts.

Township Update:

In line with the new decision, the Township of Readington will not be signing a new contract with Republic Services. Residents and condo associations will be provided with transition plans and vital information shortly.

Next Steps:

Readington Township is committed to keeping residents well-informed and engaged throughout this transition. Our communication channels, including the Township's website, Facebook Page, Listserv, and special communication as needed, will be actively utilized to brief residents on the next steps.

Additionally, the Township will provide detailed information on the refund process for any unused stickers. Rest assured; all residents will receive full refunds for any unused stickers.

The Township will continue to monitor and explore future bid opportunities for Township sponsored solid waste and recycling services.

For more information and updates, please monitor and visit the Township's official website and social media channels. The Township of Readington thanks its residents for their valuable input and is dedicated to a seamless transition into this cost-effective waste and recycling management program.