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## City of Mobile launching new program to pay the homeless to pick up litter



By Tyler Fingert

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MOBILE, Ala. ([WALA](#)) - From litter on the street to the trash bin. The City of Mobile is trying a new way to get litter picked up and people working.

"We're calling it Road to Work since they will be working on the road," said Matt Armbruster, Random Ministries Executive Director.

The plan is to pay homeless Mobilians to pick up litter.

The pilot program is set to launch in August. Armbruster is the man with the plan. He hopes to see the program grow into an extension of the work they already do to help the homeless in our area.

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When it launches in August it will start with five people with hopes of expanding. The program participants will be selected from Waterfront Rescue Mission and each will be paid \$9 an hour.

"It may start with picking up trash, but also it's going to start with mentoring, it's going to start with people believing in them, a sense of belonging that they can actually accomplish something," said Marcus Huseth, Operations Manager at Waterfront Rescue Mission.

While the program participants have not been identified yet, one Waterfront Rescue Mission client is excited about it.

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"We should have had something like that already in place," said Brad Swindle, a Waterfront Rescue Mission client. "It's outstanding, it's a wonderful idea and we need to get it going."

The pilot program will run for 60 days and cost the city nearly \$30,000 to test it out. The city believes it will be money well spent.

"This is a really inexpensive way to do job training, get litter cleaned up off of our streets to make an improvement in our community, and set folks up for success," said Casi Callaway the City of Mobile Chief Resilience Officer.

If the program participants do well they could be hired on full-time by the city.

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As of now, the trial is set to run in August and September.

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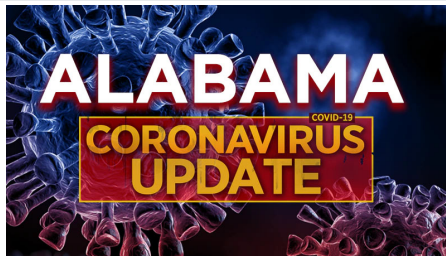
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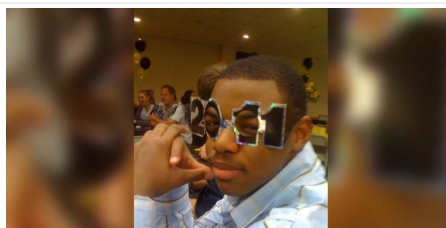
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## City of Mobile ready to talk some trash

Posted by [Dale Liesch](#) | Jan 28, 2022 | [Latest](#), [News](#) | 0 |

The city of Mobile is introducing new tools in the continuing fight against litter, and they're paperless.

Mayor Sandy Stimpson's office has launched a series of webpages to help residents participate in cleanups and track litter collection efforts, but it's far from the only thing the city is doing to combat the problem.

"We want everyone to get involved to move us toward a Litter-Free Mobile," Stimpson said in a statement. "Whether you're picking up litter on your daily walks, with your coworkers or with your children's scout troop, tracking those efforts will help give us a bigger picture of what's being done across Mobile. My hope is that, when people see what's happening in our community, they'll want to get involved and maybe those contributing litter to our roads and waterways will want to change their behavior, too."

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Chief Resilience Officer Casi Callaway said the webpages are just some of many tools the city has added or will add as part of a coordinated campaign which kicked off in the summer.

“Education is a major step,” she said.

The city has partnered with billboard company Lamar to promote residents not throwing loose trash in the back of pickup trucks. Unlike the advertisements, Callaway said the city’s efforts haven’t always been made public.

“Some of it is really public and out there and some is working with one business at a time,” she said.

The city is also going to focus more, through non-profits, on working with students to get the word out about the litter issue, Callaway said. When asked why attempts at education haven’t worked in the past, Callaway said teaching is only part of the solution.

“I don’t think education alone is going to make a difference,” she said. “It’s not enough. We have to have prevention, education and enforcement.”

In discussing enforcement solutions, Callaway said she’s heard arguments in favor of more game cameras to catch litterers. However, those devices are better for catching illegal dumpers, whose license plates are visible.



“We can get the license plate number and see them and take care of it,” she said. “It’s easier to link it back to the human involved.”

It’s harder for the cameras to catch litterers, Callaway said, because they’ll be driving or walking by and whereas dumpers have to stop, those who toss litter out the window, don’t.

The mayor’s office is also working with Mobile’s municipal court judges to make the environmental court more efficient. Also, Callaway said she’d like to increase the fine amount for littering and illegal dumping.

The city is also looking to beef up its litter patrol, Callaway said. When it was first formed, the litter patrol had a staff of five. Callaway said the mayor’s office is looking to hire as many as five more staffers for the patrol. They currently have six. Litter patrollers are hired by the city to pick up litter. Callaway said the group focuses on larger thoroughfares, like Airport Boulevard.

“We will have 10, hopefully before spring,” Callaway said. “They’re funded in the budget.”

The city has also doubled the number of municipal enforcement officers dealing with litter from two to four. Callaway said a fourth officer would be starting soon.

The city is also combating what Callaway calls “legacy litter” sites, or places where piles of litter accumulate. The thinking behind focusing on legacy sites is people are more likely to litter in areas where it has accumulated. Callaway said garbage crews have begun going out to pick up litter at these sites in hopes it will deter litterers.

“Everytime they go back there’s a little less litter,” Callaway said.

Stimpson and Callaway mentioned at the kickoff of the litter-free initiative a program to encourage retail owners to put garbage cans out in parking lots to help solve the problem. One commercial real estate company, Burton Property Group, has announced its ready to partner with the city to see what happens.

Kathy Sherman, a vice president and general counsel for Burton, said the company will be engaging in the pilot program at its Westwood shopping center at the corner of Schillinger Road and Airport Boulevard.

The company is currently in the process of determining how many garbage cans it will need to cover the parking lot. In the meantime, Sherman said the company will monitor how much litter is picked up from the parking lot by a sweeper it pays nightly to do the job. Once they place the garbage cans, Sherman said the company will again measure how much was picked up to determine if the placement of the garbage cans made a difference.

“I certainly hope (it makes a difference),” Sherman said. “People who litter like that are lazy so we want to make it convenient for them to throw trash away.”

Litter in parking lots at Burton properties is an issue, Sherman said. The company puts cans out on the sidewalks next to stores, but people will still dump trash in the parking lot.

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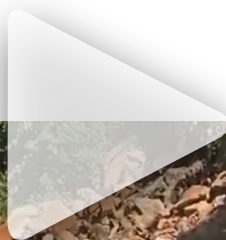
# 'Clear Water Alabama' conference studying erosion problems in Baldwin County

Blake Brown

4 months ago

## 'Clear Water Alabama' conference studying erosion problems in Baldwin County

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BALDWIN COUNTY, Ala. ([WKRG](#)) – It's known as Big Mouth Gulley. Erosion has caused major problems there for years, but recently the City of Fairhope stepped in hoping to slow the process.

“Fairhope is a city of gulleys. Unfortunately, gulleys are dynamic systems,” said Public Works Director Richard Johnson. This gulley was having some significant bank failure on its west side.”

['Shirley's law' passed, honors Mobile Co. woman who suffered elder abuse](#)

Johnson said homes were saved and roads near the Fairhope Civic Center are safer because of a project that



taking a look and taking notes.

“Our big thing is to educate local leaders and community engineers how to do proper soil erosion and sediment control and to control stormwater,” said Dr. Bill Puckett with the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee.

Engineers, planners, designers and other specialists from across Alabama are learning about ways to prevent erosion where they live and find out what’s working based on several projects currently underway in Baldwin County. A seminar was held Wednesday at the Daphne Civic Center, but Thursday the group received hands-on learning.

Ad removed. [Details](#)

“They get to come and hear the professionals who installed it talk about it, how it was designed,” he added. “It’s a 2-day event and we go around the state each year to different locations. We need to come out on field days like this and see the actual sites and how the erosion sediment control is implemented,” said Perry Oakes with Clear Water Alabama.

The Clear Water Alabama conference is wrapping up it’s 18th year and 30th event studying new technologies and statewide projects. Once they find out what’s working best they can implement similar designs in other communities.

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