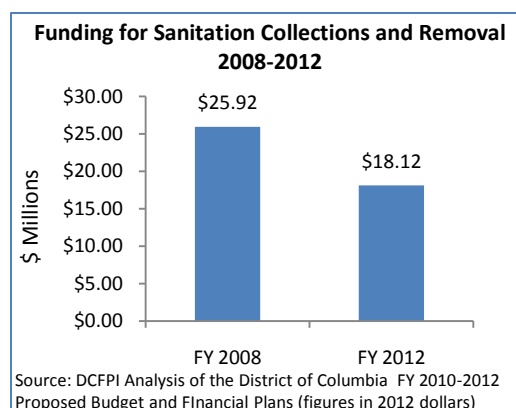


## The Cost of Cuts to DC's Department of Public Works

Due to the economic recession and subsequent District budget cuts, the Department of Public Works has seen a substantial reduction in funding over the past few years. Between 2008 and 2011, the department lost \$29 million, almost one-quarter of its resources, which affected trash pickup and other services, as well as the funds to maintain garbage trucks and street cleaning vehicles. Budget cuts to DPW also caused a temporary shortage of Supercans and recycling bins usually available for residents, a clear indication of the agency's limited resources and the kinds of decisions it's been forced to make. The FY 2012 budget for the Department of Public Works proposes a modest increase of about 4 percent in overall funding compared to 2011 funding levels, but continues to cut from important service areas like trash pickup and street cleaning.

### DECREASE IN FUNDING TO KEEP THE DISTRICT CLEAN

- ❖ Funding for services that help keep the city clean, like the enforcement of sanitation laws, trash pickup, and public space cleaning, was reduced by nearly one-third in the period between 2008 and 2011. The FY 2012 budget proposes further cuts of \$4 million.
- ❖ Cuts to sanitation services funding have resulted in the loss of over 100 full-time positions since 2008. The FY 2012 budget proposes eliminating another 100 full-time positions, raising the total to 200 full-time positions eliminated since 2008.
- ❖ Between 2008 and 2011, funds for sanitation collections and removal (trash pickup) have been cut by about \$7 million or one quarter. The FY 2012 budget proposes an additional \$1 million cut to funds for trash pickup.



### CUTS CAUSE A SHORTAGE OF GARBAGE CANS AND RECYCLING BINS FOR DISTRICT RESIDENTS

- ❖ A \$3.9 million cut to the Department of Public Works in the fall of 2010 led to a shortage of 32-gallon garbage cans, larger Supercans, and recycling bins, which affected over 4,400 District households in need of refuse bins, according to a [Washington Post article](#).
- ❖ While DPW has placed an order for more garbage containers, the agency recently announced that, due to its lack of resources, it will begin charging residents for the new 32-gallon garbage cans and recycling bins.

### FLEET MANAGEMENT BUDGET SHORTFALLS LEAD TO PERSONNEL CUTS

- ❖ The District's Fleet Management Administration keeps the city going by maintaining vehicles used for city services, like garbage trucks and street sweepers. FMA also fuels all government vehicles, including school buses and fire trucks.
- ❖ Fleet Management saw its budget cut by 45 percent between 2008 and 2011. As a result, 55 full-time positions were cut in 2011 and no new positions were added in 2012.
- ❖ Despite a modest increase in FY 2012 funding, the budget for FMA is still well below its FY 2008 level, raising concerns over the city's ability to take proper care of its vehicles.

