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**REQUESTED COUNCIL MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 2, 2015**

**ITEM: COUNCIL BILL NO. 2015-535**

**ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

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**Department Head: Leslie Haase**

**Director of Public Works: Nick Heatherly**

**City Attorney: Peter Edwards**

**City Manager: Sam Anselm**

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**INTRODUCTION:**

This Council Bill changes the penalty fee for delinquent trash bills.

**DISCUSSION:**

The City recently completed the bi-annual user fee review, which was discussed with City Council at the budget work session on September 16, 2015. User fees are fees for services for specific users. User fees should recover most of the related cost of providing the service, so general taxes are not supporting services for specific users. Under Hancock provisions, the City is only allowed to recover the cost of providing the service.

This ordinance changes the penalty for delinquent trash bills from 10% of the total outstanding balance to 10% of the current month outstanding balance. For those customers with outstanding balances, the high penalty amount is compounding the non-payment issue as it is more difficult to reduce the outstanding balance, while continuing to pay the current amount due.

The fee change will be effective on January 1, 2016.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

City Staff recommends this Council Bill be approved on first reading.