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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 30, 2021

GARBAGE CRISIS AVERTED; LEGAL ACTION BY CITY COUNCIL DISMISSED

(JACKSON, Miss) – Today, the Office of the Mayor settled in court with the City Council to avoid a potential garbage collection crisis.

Attorneys hired by the City Council sought a declaratory judgement that would allow them to negotiate a contract with Waste Management. The action initiated by the Council was dismissed before arguments could be taken up before a Hinds County Chancery Court judge. The agreement to dismiss this legal action affirms that the ability to negotiate contracts rests solely in the hands of the Mayor.

Mayor Lumumba subsequently declared a second local emergency that allowed him to properly carryout his executive branch responsibilities. A 6-month emergency contract was negotiated with WM to continue garbage collection on October 1, 2021 and avoid a public health and environmental crisis. WM agreed to a one month contract at \$10.56 per residence for October, and an additional five months at \$15 per residence.

“The intent of the administration has always been to ensure garbage collection in the City continues without interruption. We must make certain the companies we do business with provide quality service to all of our residents regardless of where they live in Jackson. It is also the administration’s expectation that all of our contracted vendors will pay a living wage and treat their employees with dignity. Our decisions must be based on what is best for our City, not on our relationships,” Mayor Lumumba said. “Today’s negotiated agreement allows us to move forward with our efforts to procure the best possible garbage collection company for Jackson in alignment with these principles.”

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