



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Laurel L. Prussing and Members of the City Council

FROM: William R. Gray, Public Works Director
Gale L. Jamison, Assistant City Engineer
Bradley M. Bennett, Civil Engineer

DATE: December 13th, 2007

RE: Council Policy Regarding a Reimbursement Program for the Repair of Sanitary and Storm Sewer Laterals

Introduction

The purpose of this memo is to establish a reimbursement program for property owners with sewer service laterals located under City streets and alleys. The reimbursement program will ease the financial burden for property owners that have to remove and replace a City street, alley, or sidewalk to repair their sewer service laterals.

Recommended Action

By motion, the City Council supports:

- The percentage of City reimbursement is 50% for public street, alley, or sidewalk removal and replacement for a sewer lateral repair up to \$3,000.
- The pavement reimbursement program would be effective on July 1 2008 after sewer benefit taxes are increased and there would be no retroactivity.
- Approval of the attached ordinance establishing a reimbursement program for repair of sewer service laterals under City streets, alleys, or sidewalks.

Fiscal Impact

Sewer Benefit Tax would have to be increased by an average of \$2.10 a year for a property owner that uses 7,000 gallons of water per month to cover the expense of the 50% reimbursement program for illegal sanitary sewer connections. It is estimated that the expense on average for removal and replacement of street pavement is \$6,000. It is estimated that there would be ten sanitary service lateral repairs annually. Storm service lateral repairs are estimated at four occurring annually. The budget impact is estimated to be \$42,000 per year for a 50% reimbursement program.

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-12-138

ESTABLISHING A COUNCIL POLICY REGARDING A REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM
FOR ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS OF PRIVATE SANITARY SEWER SERVICE
LATERALS TO THE STORM SEWER SYSTEM AND REPAIR OF SANITARY AND
STORM SEWER SERVICE LATERALS

WHEREAS, some private sanitary sewer service lateral lines are illegally connected to the City's public storm sewer lines; and

WHEREAS, some citizens were unaware of the illegal connection to the storm sewer system at the time of home purchase; and

WHEREAS, there are instances where the repair of a sanitary and storm sewer service lateral would require the removal and replacement of sidewalks, alleys, and streets within City right-of-way.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City shall reimburse the property owner for fifty percent (50%) of the cost up to four thousand dollars (\$4,000) of actual costs for eliminating an illegal sanitary sewer connection to the storm sewer system within City right-of-way.

Section 2. If sanitary and storm sewer lateral repairs are required in City right-of-way, the City shall reimburse to the property owner up to fifty percent (50%) of the reasonable costs of materials and labor involved in the removal and repairs to alley or street pavement, and sidewalk and necessary backfill to effectuate such removal and replacement up to three thousand dollars (\$3,000).

PASSED by the City Council this _____ day of _____, 2007.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINS:

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of _____,
2007.

Laurel Lunt Prussing



CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
ENGINEERING DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Laurel L. Prussing and Members of the City Council
FROM: William R. Gray, Public Works Director
Gale L. Jamison, Assistant City Engineer
Bradley M. Bennett, Civil Engineer
DATE: December 13th, 2007
RE: Council Policy Regarding a Reimbursement Program for Illegal Connections of Private Sanitary Sewer Service Laterals to the Storm Sewer System

Introduction

The purpose of this memo is to establish a reimbursement program for property owners with illegal connections of their sanitary sewer service lateral to the City's storm sewer system. The reimbursement program will ease the financial burden for property owners that have to reroute their illegal connections to a sanitary sewer.

Recommended Action

By motion, the City Council supports:

- The City would participate in a percentage of the cost to eliminate the illegal connection where such costs are incurred within the public right-of-way under street pavement. The percentage of City reimbursement is 50% for illegal connection costs up to \$4,000.
- The illegal connection reimbursement program would be implemented immediately and would be retroactive from May 1st 2007. This will cover the two illegal connections recently repaired at 804 South McCullough Street and 903 South Anderson Street.
- Approval of the attached ordinance establishing a reimbursement program for illegal connections of private sanitary sewer service laterals to the storm sewer system.

Fiscal Impact

Sewer Benefit Tax would have to be increased by an average of 40 cents a year for a property owner that uses 7,000 gallons of water per month to cover the expense of the 50% reimbursement program for illegal sanitary sewer connections. It is estimated that two illegal connection repairs occur on average per year. The annual fiscal impact would be 8,000 for the 50% reimbursement program. Funds from the sewer repair budget would be utilized to finance the reimbursement program until the sewer benefit tax is increased in 2008.

**A POLICY REGARDING ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS OF PRIVATE SANITARY SEWER
SERVICE LATERALS TO THE STORM SEWER SYSTEM AND REPAIRS TO
SANITARY AND STORM SEWER SERVICE LATERALS**

A. Basic Policy Statement. Connection of private sanitary sewer service laterals to the storm sewer system is prohibited by the City's Illegal Discharge and Connection Ordinance. The City recognizes the extraordinary costs of eliminating an illegal sanitary sewer connection to the storm sewer system. The City also recognizes the extraordinary costs to repair a sanitary or storm sewer service lateral under a City street or sidewalk.

B. Notice to City. Upon discovery of an illegal private sanitary sewer service lateral connection to the storm sewer or repair of a sanitary or storm sewer service lateral requiring the disturbance of sidewalks, alleys, and streets, the property owner shall notify the City's Public Works Department, Engineering Division, in a timely fashion.

C. Arrangements. The property owner shall make arrangements with an appropriate contractor to remove the illegal connection or repair the service lateral. The property owner shall submit three proposals from plumbing or sewer contractors to the City along with the City's application form for the reimbursement program. The proposals shall contain detailed costs for the removal and replacement of publicly owned infrastructure (sidewalks, curbs, alleys, or streets).

D. Costs.

1. **ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS.** The property owner shall be responsible for the initial payment of all costs of eliminating the illegal connection of their sanitary sewer service lateral to the storm sewer system within City right-of-way. The City shall reimburse the property owner for fifty percent (50%) of the cost up to four thousand dollars (\$4,000) of actual costs upon submission of reasonable supporting information. The City Engineer's determination of the reasonable supporting information and reasonable cost of construction shall be determinative of the City's reimbursement irrespective of the cost actually incurred by the property owner.

2. **REPAIR.** The property owner shall be responsible for the initial payment of all costs for the repair of a sanitary or storm sewer service connection. If construction is required in City right-of-way, the City shall, upon submission of reasonable supporting information, reimburse to the property owner to fifty percent (50%) of the reasonable costs of materials and labor involved in the removal and repairs to alley or street pavement, curb, and sidewalk and necessary backfill to effectuate such removal and replacement up to three thousand dollars (\$3,000). The City Engineer's determination of the reasonable supporting information and a reasonable cost of construction shall be determinative of the City's reimbursement irrespective of the cost actually incurred by the property owner.

E. Eligibility. The property must be located within the corporate limits of the City of Urbana. The City will reimburse where:

1. The private sanitary sewer service lateral is illegally connected into the storm sewer system.

2. Repair is needed within City right-of-way and the required repairs disturb the alley or street pavement, or sidewalk.

F. Funding. All funds for reimbursement under this policy shall come from the Sewer Benefit Tax's Sanitary Sewer Construction Fund.

G. Retroactivity. This policy shall cover illegal connections discovered or eliminated beginning on May 1st 2007. No retroactivity is provided for sanitary or storm sewer lateral repairs.

H. Effective Date. This policy shall take effect upon passage of a motion establishing this council policy.