

Reply to Common Council File No. 050620
From DOA-Budget and Management Division

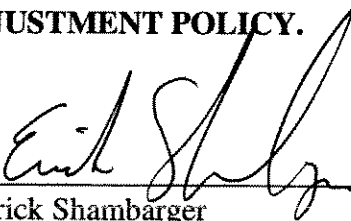
September 15, 2005

Ref: BF 06-7E

Common Council File 050620 establishes a storm water management charge adjustment policy. This policy complements Common Council File 050324, which established a Stormwater Management Charge. The Stormwater Management Charge is based on the amount of impervious surface on each property in the city. The fee is based on the assumption that stormwater runs off of these impervious surfaces and into the city's storm sewer system. Thus, the amount of impervious surface is a proxy for how much properties benefit and use the sewer system. However, the assumption does not hold for all properties. Some properties are not connected to the city's sewer system, others may have had their impervious surface improperly estimated by the city, and others may manage their stormwater on-site using a variety of best management practices. In these instances, non-residential property owners may seek an adjustment from the city. Because all residential properties are charged a uniform fee, none may seek an adjustment. Only non-residential properties may seek an adjustment.

The Commissioner of Public Works will review all requests for adjustments. It should be noted that while properties may receive an adjustment for using best management practices that manage stormwater on-site, the practices *must reduce the costs to the city*. Using detention ponds and other mechanisms that allow the sewer system to work as designed but do not reduce costs is not sufficient for receiving an adjustment.

**RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT COMMON COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 050620 ESTABLISHING A STORM WATER
MANAGEMENT CHARGE ADJUSTMENT POLICY.**



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