

LRB - FISCAL SECTION ANALYSIS - REVISED
OCTOBER 19, 2004 AGENDA **ITEM 8, FILE 040421**
ZONING & NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE **EMMA J. STAMPS**

File #040421 is an ordinance relating to connection of downspouts and sump pumps to combined sewers.

Background

1. Currently, the Milwaukee code permits an owner of a single or 2-family residence anywhere in the city to conditionally disconnect downspouts or sump pumps and discharge them to finished grade.
2. That discharge from roof rainwater leaders, conductors or downspouts to finished grade can not discharge to a street alley or public way, but must flow parallel to or away from the nearest property line.

Discussion

1. File 040421 extends those code provisions to apply to all buildings located in those areas of the city served by combined sewers.
2. This ordinance also permits owners of buildings wishing to disconnect downspouts or sump pumps to request and receive compliance waivers from the Commission of Neighborhood Service, if conditions specified in the Code are met.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal note does not indicate a fiscal impact.

Other Information

Passage of this ordinance is a prerequisite for implementation of various DPW Sewer Maintenance Fund pilot capital improvement projects. The 2005 Proposed Budget lists \$1,080,000 for a Flow Reduction Project, which provides for three separate pilot projects. The purpose is to reduce the amount of clear water flowing directly into sanitary and combined sewers. These capital funded disconnection projects include:

- \$300,000 – Downspout Disconnections – This pilot project will target 1,200 single and two-family residential buildings in the Washington Park neighborhood for voluntary downspout disconnections. In previous years, MMSD funded a similar Sewer Maintenance Fund administered pilot program where property owners in targeted areas received \$50 per downspout disconnected, with a maximum of \$100 per house.

- \$275,000 – Inlet Restrictors and Downspout Disconnection – The project calls for the installation of inlet restrictors in catch basins to reduce the rate of rainwater runoff entering into the combined sewers. The water is temporarily stored on the street (puddle) and gradually released into the sewers. If implemented, this pilot project is expected to result in increased street flooding and complaints by citizens during the first year.
- \$550,000 – Footing Drain Disconnections – This pilot project targets homes built before 1954 in one area of the Lincoln Creek watershed. Homeowners must voluntarily consent to have foundation footing drains disconnected from sanitary sewers. **This ordinance does not impact the Footing Drain Disconnections pilot.**

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