

## LRB-FISCAL REVIEW SECTION ANALYSIS

JANUARY 9, 2002 AGENDA

ITEM 9, FILE 011137

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

EMMA J. STAMPS

File #011137 is a resolution relative to the acceptance of a Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) Reduction Demonstration Project Grant.

### Background

1. On November 8, 2000, Council passed Resolution 000736 authorizing the Department of Public Works to accept a \$50,000 MMSD I/I Reduction Demonstration Project Grant. Acceptance of the grant allowed DPW to continue its collaborative effort with MMSD to identify the possibility of reducing I/I by disconnecting downspouts on qualifying single-family and 2-family residences from the city sewer system through a multi-phase Demonstration Project.
2. On November 27, 2001, Council adopted Ordinance No. 000580 allowing owners of single-family and 2-family residences the choice to disconnect downspouts or sump pumps from the city sewer system and discharge them to finished grade, provided certain provisions are met. These properties are exempt from having to connect all downspouts and sump pumps to the city sewer system.
3. In Phase I of the Demonstration Project, a first test basin was identified. The selected project area, bounded by East Bradford Avenue, North Downer Avenue, East Locust Street, North Lake Drive and North Wahl Avenue in the 3<sup>rd</sup> aldermanic district, is known as the first test basin. Per DPW, Phase I of the project offers \$50 rebates to qualifying property owners. The total number of qualified Phase I parcels was unavailable.
4. Phase II of the Demonstration Project calls for testing the downspout disconnection plan within a test area that best fits the following technical criteria:
  - Within the combined sewer system
  - Consistent zoning throughout the area
  - Sewers drain to a common point with can be monitored
  - A control area with similar characteristics is nearby
  - Less than one mile away from the nearest rain gauge
  - Large enough to provide a measurable change
  - Lot sizes provide additional non paved areas for infiltration of rainwater runoff
  - Construction methods employed allow disconnection of downspouts to non paved areas
5. The second test basin contains properties whose water feeds into the first test basin. The area chosen is bounded by North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, West McKinley Avenue, North 20<sup>th</sup> Street and West Galena Street in the 17<sup>th</sup> aldermanic district. Phase II of the Demonstration Project concentrates on properties within this area.

### **Discussion**

1. This resolution authorizes the Department of Public Works – Infrastructure to expend the \$50,000 Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) Reduction Demonstration Project Grant funds.
2. Approving the expenditures allows the City to participate in Phase II of an I/I Reduction Demonstration Project. Phase II implements a rebate program for the 17<sup>th</sup> aldermanic district.
3. The grant funds a rebate program for project Phase II. This program mirrors that of Phase I. Following a DPW inspection and approval, the City will pay \$50 rebates to authorized property owners within the study area who complete the work required to properly disconnect their downspouts from the sewer system within a reasonable amount of time.
4. A maximum of two rebates is permitted for qualified parcels having 2 or more residential structures.

### **Fiscal Impact**

This resolution authorizes the expenditure of \$50,000 in grant funds for the operation of I/I Reduction Demonstration Project – Phase II using MMSD Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) Reduction Demonstration Project Grant funds.

### **Other Information**

Downspout disconnection diverts water from the sewerage system to allow for natural absorption onto non paved areas. The Committee will also consider FN 011103, an ordinance related to water drainage onto adjacent properties. This ordinance removes the requirement that surface water from one property not drain onto adjacent properties. This file amends 252-71 of the Code to read: No water shall drain across or onto a public street or ~~[[private property under different ownership than the property generating or containing the surface water]]~~>>right of way<<.

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LRB-Fiscal Review  
January 7, 2002