



Department Source: City Utilities - Sewer/Stormwater

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: November 5, 2018

Re: Status of the Cost Reimbursement Program for the Installation of Pressure Sewers and Backflow Prevention Devices or the Removal of Plumbing Fixtures.

Executive Summary

Council requested an update on the status of the cost reimbursement program for the installation of pressure sewers and backflow prevention devices or the removal of plumbing fixtures.

Discussion

The Council approved an amendment to Chapter 22 of the City Code of Ordinances on July 17, 2017 to establish a cost reimbursement program for the installation of pressure sewers and backflow prevent devices or the removal of plumbing fixtures, more commonly referred to as the "backup program". This program was intended to provide partial reimbursement to property owners for the cost of modifications to their building to reduce the potential for sewer backups. Following establishment of the program, staff worked to develop final program requirements, application and legal agreements.

As part of this development the reimbursement program for removal of private sources of inflow and infiltration needed to be amended to more closely align with the backup program and be expanded to include participation of property owners using the backup program. Revisions to Chapter 22 of the City Code of Ordinances to incorporate these changes were approved by Council on December 4, 2017. Following approval of the modifications, staff worked to update the program requirements, application and legal agreements. All of these documents were finalized and approved by the Law Department on June 20, 2018.

City staff maintained a contact log for property owners expressing an interest in the backup program since July 2017, this log identifies eight (8) property owners. Once the program documents were finalized, City staff contacted these property owners and provided the final program requirements and applications. Two (2) property owners submitted completed applications. Staff met with the owners, performed property inspections and issued determinations of eligibility. Both properties are approved for participation in the backup program and one is also approved for participation in the private source inflow and infiltration reimbursement program for the removal of a sump pump connected to the sewer system. Once the property owners complete the improvements, the reimbursement can be provided.

Sewer Utility staff is currently working to develop a communication strategy for both of these reimbursement programs to increase customer awareness and participation in the programs.



The effort includes placing information on the City's website regarding the programs and their availability; placing an article in the December issue of City Source to increase program awareness and; reaching out to neighborhood associations in areas that have known sanitary sewer backup issues. The initial area for outreach is the West Ash Neighborhood. Staff is scheduled to attend the neighborhood association meeting on December 6, 2018 to discuss these programs with residents.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: No fiscal impact due to this report, currently \$100,000 is included in the operating budget each fiscal year for this program and for the Private Source Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Program.

Long-Term Impact: No fiscal impact due to this report, currently \$100,000 is included in the operating budget each fiscal year for this program and for the Private Source Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Program.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
12/04/2017	B351-17 Amending Chapter 22 of the City Code to update requirements relating to the inflow and infiltration reduction program.
07/17/2017	B190-17 Cost Reimbursement programs for installation of pressure sewers and backflow prevention devices or the removal of plumbing fixtures.
05/15/2017	REP38-17 Update on sewer system inflow and infiltration reduction efforts and impact on the reduction of overflows and sewer backups into buildings
08/1/2011	B192-11 Inflow & Infiltration Reduction Program Amendment
03/7/2011	B54-11 Inflow & Infiltration Reduction Program
07/23/2010	REP- 70-10 Inflow and Infiltration Reduction

Suggested Council Action

This report is for information only.