

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: July 23, 2018
	Agenda Item No. 46 Roll Call No. [_____] Communication No. <u>18-390</u> Submitted by: Jonathan A. Gano, P.E., Public Works Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving amendments to Chapter 118 of the Municipal Code regarding establishment of a Private Property Protection Program and subsidy for qualifying plumbing work.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend Council approval of amendments to Chapter 118 of the Municipal Code regarding the Private Property Protection Program and establishing a subsidy for customers of the wastewater collection system of the City of Des Moines.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$200,000

Funding Source: 2018-19 Operating Budget, Public Works, Sanitary Sewer Operations Fund, PW248420

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Elevated flow conditions during periods of wet weather can cause basement backups in some lower lying areas and can be attributed to, at least in part, excessive infiltration and inflow into portions of the wastewater collection system. A significant amount of this excess flow enters the sewer system through portions of the private plumbing system within homes and businesses. The major sources of the excess flow include roof and area drains that catch rainwater and direct the flow to the private sewer service, and footing or foundation drains that intercept ground water from around the outside of the buildings and directs the flow to the private service lines. The goals of the Private Property Protection Program are to provide an incentive for the property owners to remove the sources of infiltration and inflow from the private sewer system and to assist in the cost of protecting the properties that are adversely affected by the excessive flows in the sanitary sewer collection system.
- Recent wet weather events and associated basement backups have highlighted the continued need to remove sources of inflow and infiltration into the sanitary sewer. In addition, the program has not been as widely used since being reinstated with a lower cost share in 2017. To provide additional incentive to property owners to participate, both the cost share percentage and maximum subsidy amount are proposed to be increased.

- The key elements of the Private Property Protection Program include:
 - a) The Private Property Protection Program will now provide 100% (previously 50%) of the cost of any materials and labor for installation of backwater valve, the disconnection of roof leaders from the sanitary sewer service, the installation or redirection of a sump pump to discharge flows from foundation drains and area drains to a non-sanitary sewer outlet such as a rain garden, storm sewer, or the ground surface on existing structures on private property.
 - b) The maximum subsidy allowed for a single property will now be \$1,500 (previously \$1,000).
 - c) New cost share and maximum subsidy limits will also be effective for properties that previously applied since February 20, 2017 (approximately 21 applications).
 - d) The work must be pre-approved and be performed before June 30, 2023.
 - e) The work must be performed by a licensed plumber.
 - f) The documentation of cost of the qualifying improvements shall include a copy of an itemized invoice from a licensed plumber or plumbing firm that details the work performed and a copy of the full payment.
 - g) The account for the sanitary sewer fee charges on the property must be current as to payments at the time of application.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: February 20, 2017

Roll Call Number: [17-0306](#)

Action: [Amending](#) Chapter 118 of the Municipal Code regarding a Private Property Protection Program. ([Council Communication No. 17-075](#)) Moved by Gray that this ordinance be considered and given first vote for passage. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Renewal of program in 2023 if determined to be effective.

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