


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	25-084	Meeting:	March 10, 2025
	Agenda Item:	45	Roll Call:	25-0384
	Submitted by:	Jonathan A. Gano, P.E., Public Works Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Amending Chapter 118 of the Municipal Code relating to qualifying improvements for the private property protection program.

SYNOPSIS:

Approving amendments to Chapter 118 of the Municipal Code to amend Section 118-302 relating to qualifying improvements for the private property protection program. The ordinance is scheduled to go into effect after its passage and on the date of publication as provided by law.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The primary changes associated with this ordinance include limitations on the location of backwater valve installations being reimbursed by the program and restricting subsidy eligibility if work being performed is required by the City.
- 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.
- Many of these connections were allowed at the time of the original building construction and are “grandfathered” under the current plumbing codes. The goals of this 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.
- The Private Property Protection Program will provide a subsidy to property owners that have a current Des Moines Water Works account for the property for which a subsidy is requested and that contract with a licensed plumber to redirect one (1) or more of the eligible sources of infiltration and inflow to an outlet other than the sanitary sewer system or to install a backwater

valve on their private sewer service to protect against surcharges on the public sewer system. With this program, the City will make a Private Property Protection Program subsidy reimbursement to the property owners who meet the requirements of the program. The reimbursement will be by direct payment of the qualifying subsidy to the property owner.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: June 12, 2023

Roll Call Number: [23-0865](#)

Action: [Amending](#) Section 118-302 of the Municipal Code relating to private property protection program. ([Council Communication No. 23-276](#)) Moved by Gatto that this ordinance be considered and given first vote for passage. Second by Westergaard. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Sheumaker.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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