



Virg Bernero, Mayor

## PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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### Re: Downtown 2020 - Combined Sewer Overflow Control Program

Dear Property Owner/Tenant/Resident:

The City of Lansing is beginning the 16<sup>th</sup> year of the 30 year Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Program. As you may know, Lansing's CSO Control Program focuses on sanitary and storm sewer infrastructure improvements to eliminate overflows of untreated sewage into Lansing area waterways.

The Mayor's Downtown 2020 Infrastructure Task Force was established in January 2004 to gather input from downtown stakeholders and to improve implementation of CSO sewer separation projects in the downtown area. The Task Force reviewed the proposed CSO construction schedule and other infrastructure projects in Lansing's Central Business District. The study area was generally bounded by Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Oakland and Pennsylvania Avenues and I-496. The Task Force completed their work and the final report was issued by the Mayor on November 17, 2004. As a result, the CSO sewer separation construction proposed for portions of the study area has been moved forward to spread the work over a greater time period and lessen the effects of construction on traffic and commerce. (The downtown construction period will now begin in 2006 and be completed in 2019 instead of the original time frame of 2014 through 2019.)

We have three primary reasons for communicating with you at this time.

1. We are providing information to all downtown owners and tenants to keep everyone informed of our CSO Control Plans for Downtown.
2. If your property is scheduled for construction in the next three (3) years, we are asking you to fill out and return the enclosed questionnaire to help us design the system to serve you properly.
3. We want to give you plenty of time to disconnect inflow sources from your sanitary sewer piping. Although you may not know it, discharging storm or groundwater to the City's sanitary sewers is a violation of the City Code (Section 1040.10). ***All inflow sources must be properly disconnected from your sanitary sewer piping prior to separation of sewers in your area.*** Examples of inflow sources to be disconnected from sanitary sewer services include:
  - Roof downspouts that disappear into the ground
  - Catch basins in yards, patios or parking areas
  - Internal roof drains (commercial buildings)
  - Pumped footing drains

Property owners are required to remove all inflow sources from their property's sanitary service prior to construction. Failure to remove the sources of inflow can result in basement backups, bypasses of raw sewage to streets and rivers that threaten both human health and the environment, and fines from state or federal governments. Questions about the inflow removal program can be directed to the City's Private Inflow Helpline: (517) 394-5577.

### **Check the Map**

To assist you in planning for upcoming construction activity that may directly or indirectly affect your location we have provided the enclosed map. The map identifies by color the streets scheduled for construction from 2006 through 2010. It also identifies in gray those streets scheduled for construction during the subsequent period 2011 through 2019. The enclosed construction segmentation summary table further defines by construction year the streets to be affected as part of CSO construction, and identifies issues related to that work. This table and the individual construction year figures are also available in Volume I – Summary Report of the Mayor's Downtown Infrastructure Task Force. If you would like to learn more about the Task Force and review the full report, it can be viewed at the following web site: [www.cityoflansingmi.com/cso](http://www.cityoflansingmi.com/cso) .

### **Plan Ahead**

Even if your block is not scheduled for construction in the next few years, you can start inspecting, planning, and budgeting to complete the necessary work on your property now. You may want to incorporate it in with another project you have planned for the property. Separation of some types of inflow sources (driveway drains, patio drains, internal roof drains, etc.) on your property may require the expertise of a contractor licensed to perform work in the City. A list of licensed contractors is available upon request by calling the City of Lansing's Private Inflow Help Line at (517) 394-5577. Please contact the Inflow Helpline for information and assistance as needed.

### **What's Next**

Properties in upcoming construction areas will be inspected by Lansing's inflow removal program inspectors to verify information provided on the questionnaire, identify any other inflow sources, and to determine whether the property requires a storm sewer lead to complete separation. The inspector will likely need to enter your building to gather information for design of sanitary and storm sewer connections for your property. The City provides this inspection at no cost to the owner/tenant.

If your returned questionnaire or the City's inspection identifies the need for a stormwater service lead for your property, the City's Engineering Consultant will be contacting you to coordinate the separation work on your property with the City's project in the roadway. Please note that if you have your storm and sanitary systems separated and ready to connect to the new City system prior to CSO construction, the City will connect your services at no additional cost to you. If your system is not separated and ready to connect, you may be required to make the connections later at your own expense.

Following is a summary of steps you should take:

1. Thoroughly inspect your property using the enclosed information sheets, to identify all connections of rain and groundwater inflow sources to your sanitary sewer piping.
2. Fill out and return the enclosed questionnaire in the envelope provided.

3. Budget and plan for disconnection of inflow sources from your sanitary sewer piping, to be completed by April of the construction year shown on the map for your block.

### **We Are Here to Help**

Our primary goal is to protect the environment and public health. We want to work with you to assure that stormwater and sanitary sewage flows from your property are properly connected to the appropriate storm and sanitary sewers. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Inflow Helpline, (517) 394-5577, or check the web site [www.cityoflansingmi.com/cso](http://www.cityoflansingmi.com/cso) for more details about the CSO Program or inflow removal. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Dean Johnson, P.E.

City Engineer

Enclosures for all letters:

- Color construction-by-year map
- Construction segmentation summary table

Enclosures for properties within areas of next three (3) construction years

- CSO Control Program Brochure
- CSO Inflow Removal Program Brochure and Typical Inflow Sources sheet
- CSO Questionnaire