

Schweitzer, Debbie

From: Johnson-Martin, Janice
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2007 3:11 PM
To: Schweitzer, Debbie
Subject: FW: Communication: Sewage overflow near 100-block of Virginia St.

Debbie,

Can you enter this asap and call me with the number.

Thanks

From: Wisneski, Aron
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2007 3:10 PM
To: Johnson-Martin, Janice
Cc: Haas, Keith; Jones, Richard; Becker, Gary; Weber, Robert; Hart, Ronald
Subject: Communication: Sewage overflow near 100-block of Virginia St.

JJ,

I would like to put in a communication to the **Public Works and Services committee** regarding sewage overflow problems in the 100 block of Virginia Street.

After this weekend's rainstorms, multiple homes along Virginia had sanitary sewers back-up depositing large quantities of refuse, feces, slime, and other filth into their basements. All of the homes affected had finished basements, so carpet, furniture, drywall, hot water heaters, etc. were all damaged. The cause of the flooding was not seepage through walls (an indication of ground water flooding) but rather many inches of sewer water coming out of the sewage drain in the basement floors.

All of the affected owners explained how the City has tried to mitigate such problems by adding new storm water drains, and this has taken care of the problem during light rains. However, they also explained that this is the third such incident to occur since the year 2000 and they feel that the City has not done enough to keep the system from damaging their homes.

I understand that this storm was one of the most severe that Racine has experienced in many years, but given the frequency of flooding in this particular neighborhood compared to others in the City, the homeowners believe that their sewers are especially problematic. All but one of the affected homes has a sump pump system installed and two of the owners have re-landscaped their yards to have rainwater drain away from the house. All of the owners stated that their insurance companies have lowered or dropped their flood coverage due to these reoccurring events. They simply want relief from this chronic problem.

I ask that the Department of Public Works and the Waste Water department work together to come up with a solution to this issue. The neighbors and I would gladly offer to help in any way we can.

Thank you.

Aron Wisneski
12th District Alderman
City of Racine, Wisconsin

08/20/2007