

Michael J. Bergnach

822 SHERIDAN ROAD
KENOSHA, WI 53140

TEL. 773.435.0700
FAX. 262.553.1363
Email: mbergnach@yahoo.com

VIA FACSIMILE

February 26, 2008

Mayor Gary Becker and the Common Council
730 Washington Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
Facsimile No.: 262-636-9570

Re: Building at 203-207 Sixth St.: Storm water draining and connection to storm sewer

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

Due to the upcoming Sixth Street reconstruction project, I have been investigating how this building connects to public utilities and services to improve or correct exiting connections. Regarding the way this building drains storm water, since this building is located in the downtown area, having neighboring buildings directly abutting this building on all four sides, it does not have access to an alley or any outside ground surface on which it could drain storm water. Its gutter system, consequently, runs into a drain system located within the building. John Christensen, Racine plumbing inspector, and I have visually inspected this system and could not determine whether the building storm water is connected into the municipal storm sewer or sewage systems. From what he has told me, due to the age of the building, either connection is possible. I am, therefore, looking into making a new connection to the storm sewer, especially during this time of extensive work to Sixth Street, which is where this connection would be made.

There are two potential times during the Sixth Street project for making this new connection to the storm sewer under the street in conjunction with other related work being performed for the street reconstruction project, which would minimize disruption to the street. This new connection could be made between March and May 2008, while Earth Tech. is replacing the water service and sewer drains to this building and other buildings on Sixth St. The other good time to make this connection would be next year when HNTB is replacing the storm sewer lines in Sixth Street. The project managers at both Earth Tech. and HNTB, during multiple telephone conversations regarding this new storm drain lateral connection to this building, have suggested that the best time to perform this work would be next year.

Taking this recommendation would delay the potential correction of a possible improper building storm water drain connection that currently exists at the building. As stated above, it has not been determined that this currently existing connection is improper. This connection has apparently existed for many years without concerns. Regardless, I intend to ensure that the proper connections between this building and municipal systems are made.

Therefore, I would like to respectfully request that the Mayor and the Common Council consider allowing the currently existing storm water drain system for this building to remain unchanged until next year, when a new storm sewer connection can be made to this building during the replacement of the storm sewer lines under Sixth Street.

Sincerely,



Michael Bergnach
Building Owner 203-207 Sixth Street