



*COMMUNITY MEETING WITH COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER TURNER ON
SEWAGE BACKUP ISSUE ON MATHEW STREET held Wednesday, October 7, 2009.*

Mayor Davis started the meeting at 7:35 p.m. It was held in the Multipurpose Room of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad Herling, Leta Mach, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: County Council member Ingrid M. Turner and Tomeka Bumbry, Chief of Staff; Rudy Chow, Interim Deputy General Manager, Kirk Wineland, Intergovernmental Relations, Jacquelyn Barry, Customer Relations, David Willkins, Customer Care, and others from Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC); Susan Hubbard and Jeff Diehan, Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T); Randolph Williams, Janice and Michael Chiddo, Stanley Hodge and Rick Usilton, residents of Mathew Street; and Michael McLaughlin, City Manager.

Council member Turner welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mayor Davis noted the meeting was to discuss a sewage backup incident that impacted three, and possibly more, homes on Mathew Street

Mr. Putens gave a brief summary of the incident and the confusing messages from WSSC following it. Ms. Chiddo explained the situation from the residents' perspective and provided photos of the damage. The residents were very appreciative for this meeting being organized by Council member Turner and the City.

Mr. Chow began by apologizing to the homeowners for the confusion surrounding this matter. He also introduced Mr. David Wilkins who holds a customer advocate position at WSSC that was just established a few months ago at WSSC. Mr. Chow made a presentation on the WSSC system in the area. He explained that when WSSC responded to the situation they did not find the usual clues of a sewage backup. WSSC still has not been able to understand how the backup occurred, but has determined they need to do right by the customer.

Mr. Putens noted that Mr. Williams was contacted today with an offer of over ten thousand dollars to compensate him for damages. WSSC has done this under its "no-fault" payment policy. (It was also noted the Chiddos have been reimbursed by their insurance company.)

Ms. Turner asked if the Chiddos' insurance company has been contacted by WSSC. Ms. Barry said they have recently been in touch with the insurance company and will continue to talk to the insurance company. Ms. Chiddo said she expected to be reimbursed for their deductible. Mr. Chow offered to reimburse the deductible.

Mr. Putens believes there may be a problem with the system in the neighborhood since there have been a number of backup incidents over the years. Mr. Diehan noted that the County has examined the storm sewer system and found it to be in good condition and no evidence of tie-ins to the sanitary sewer system. Ms. Turner asked WSSC to look at the full system in the neighborhood.

Thanks were expressed to the County, WSSC and the Council for getting this meeting together, though Mayor Davis noted there is still work to be done to address the residents' problems.

***Other matters** – Mayor Davis heard from County Council member Dernoga's office that the mixed use zone bill is set to be heard on November 17, 2009. She added that the Prince George's County Municipal Association dinner is November 5, 2009 and the city should buy tickets for seven Council members since it will be after the election.*

The meeting ended at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michael McLaughlin
City Manager*