Create Control - Data Entry

Control Number: OCR-17-000-8612 Alternate Number:

Citizen Information

Citizen/Originator: [redacted] Barrington, IL 600010 Search Citizen

Constituent: Search Constituent

Committee:

Sub-Committee:

Control Information

Status: Pending *

Letter Date: May 3, 2017 *

Received Date: May 10, 2017

Contact Type: LTR (Letter) *

Priority Code: Normal *

Addressee: (+)

Addressee Org:

File Code:

Signature: (+)

CC: Search CC

Signature Date: May 3, 2017

Primary Subject: Update regarding storm drainage problems on [redacted] Street (+) *

Secondary Subject: (+)

Instructions: (+) *

Instruction Notes:

General Notes:

*: Required field

(+): Lookup field, press space bar for complete list

Save Continue and Assign Cancel

May 3, 2017

Director of the Office of Civil Rights
US Environmental Protection Agency
MAIL code 1201A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Recent overflow of storm drains on April 30, 2017 on [redacted] Street, Barrington, IL.

To Whom It May Concern:

On September 22, 2015 I wrote you regarding the Village of Barrington allowing storm drains on our block of [redacted] Street and affected nearby streets of Summit and Spring to overflow into the environment based on faulty and aged drains. You replied, much to my surprise and gratitude.

As an update, our storm drain at the intersection of [redacted] Street where we live and [redacted] Streets overflowed on Sunday, April 30, 2017. The Village of Barrington (see their website) has been complying with the EPA request to fix these faulty drains and is currently replacing sewage drains in other parts of the village much less affected than our street, the low point and consistently flooded street when high water accumulates. When first proposed in 2016, the village stated our street along with the other streets requiring attention would be completed in 2017. Later, the village stated the work would stop at the train tracks, leaving our short portion of the project until 2018 due to "budget constraints."

I just want to let you know that while the village is actively making infrastructure changes, our street cannot be ignored. The promise of rectifying our street in 2018 must be backed up with actions. Please do NOT assume the village has complied with the original reason for replacing ancient sewage infrastructure if they only repair streets never affected with sewage run off. Our block of [redacted] consistently has raw, smelly and unhealthful sewage run off spilling wildly out of manholes into our block and the adjacent ones of [redacted] streets when rainful becomes excessive. My husband with an background in engineering is puzzled why the village began working on areas where sewage run off is not a problem, making us wait for two years from the time their decision was made heavily influenced by the EPA to correct these drains. If a village really cares about the water quality, health hazards posed by contaminated flooding when drains are ineffectual, they should have started the project on [redacted]. Municipalities always have reasons for the path of origin and completion on projects of this nature, but I want to be certain to emphasize our concern that if our block of [redacted] is ignored and does not get attention in the proposed 2018 time line, the sewage run off problem has NOT been resolved.

We are hoping for the best in this situation, but after waiting so long for action, can only pray we will not be forgotten due to "budget constraints" when the Village of Barrington has spent so much money in lawsuits against the local railroad, buying out downtown properties only to level and to maintain vacant lots, completely rebuilding a block in the downtown and helping to

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restore and maintain the White House historical landmark used primarily for events certainly not necessary, healthful enhancements to the village. All of these improvements were done in the past three years. The Village of Barrington has finances for everything but correcting a long standing infrastructure problem. In fact, at village meetings in the past before 2016, residents such as our neighbors attending with complaints were silenced by board members with the statement no infrastructure issues would be discussed.

Grants were provided to pay for this sewer drain improvement to correct a violation with the EPA. The monies provided should directly be linked to correction of the main problem, sewage run off primarily on [redacted] which runs off into neighboring [redacted] streets. Please know we are counting on you to be certain our street is not neglected any further. Our health is not less important than home owners on higher ground.

Much of this conversation is redundant for the purpose of stressing the health importance of addressing the drains on [redacted]. We appreciate your constant and proactive stance on helping make communities healthier. In the Village of Barrington, there are no real budget constraints as cited, since the region is wealthy and does not have the burden other cities such as Flint Michigan have encountered with contaminated water issues. Even there, the Governor of Michigan stepped in to help these needy people.

Thank you for listening and helping make America great again with the support of the EPA.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Barrington, IL. 60010

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US Environmental Protection Agency
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