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<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cenname, Chief	CITY of <b>BALTIMORE</b>  <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall (410) 396-4774		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 19-0159R – Investigative Hearing – Building Backups of Untreated Sewage		

DATE:

**TO**

The Honorable President and Members of the City Council  
City Hall, Room 400

September 19, 2019

City Council Bill 19-0159R has been introduced for the purpose of inviting representatives from the Department of Public Works, Law Department, Office of Information and Technology, Health Department, Mayor’s Office of Emergency Management to appear before the City Council to discuss the effectiveness and sufficiency of measures being taken to address basement backups of raw sewage.

The City takes a comprehensive approach to addressing sewage backups. The 2017 Modified Consent Decree Expedited Reimbursement Program provides for a reimbursement program for City residents costs arising from backups. The Headworks Project is expected to eliminate the vast majority of overflows. Advanced systems for preventative maintenance and analysis are being put in place.

As part of the 2017 Modified Consent Decree, the Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW) administers the Expedited Reimbursement Program for sewage backups caused by wet weather. The program offers up to \$2,500 per dwelling unit, per event for reasonable, documented clean-up and disinfection costs. Since beginning in April 2018, DPW has received 74 applications for the program. Ten claims have been processed to nine customers for a total of \$14,775 in reimbursements.

The Headworks Project will eliminate more than 80 percent of the volume of sewage overflows. During periods of excess rain, the amount of sewage and rain that enters the system exceeds capacity causing a bottleneck, which leads to backups into homes and watersheds. The Headworks Project will construct a 36 million-gallon storage facility and add eight 1,000 horsepower pumps and accompanying infrastructure to actively pump sewage and break the bottleneck. The influent pumped into the storage facility will then gradually be released into the system for treatment. The project is expected to cost \$430 million and be operational by the end of 2020.

In addition, the City’s preventative maintenance and analysis give insights into the effectiveness of reducing sewage backups. Through June 2019, DPW has cleaned 425,865 linear feet of pipe, replaced 33,939 linear feet of pipe, and installed 6,252 linear feet of new pipe. Additional repairs are being undertaken that will increase effectiveness. Information monitoring systems are also being put in place to monitor the effectiveness of the completed projects and a Phase II plan will be developed by December 2022 to address any remaining deficiencies in the system.

The Department of Finance will attend the hearing for this Resolution and respond to fiscal inquiries concerning the City’s response to basement backups of raw sewage.

cc: Henry Raymond  
Matthew Stegman  
Nina Themelis