

To Baltimore City Department of Public Works,

I am following up on an unresolved main line issue that caused sewage back up at my property and the City's lack of response.

On January 10, a sewage backup occurred at my residence. A licensed emergency plumbing contractor responded and determined that the obstruction was located in the City-owned sewer main ~67 ft out, not within my private sewer lateral.

On January 13, the city sent out a VACTOR RAMJET Truck # 248107 to jet the line from the manhole in my neighbors front yard as a response.

on January 30, I had another private plumbing contractor come out to snake the line again, who also noticed the same blockage in the city sewer main ~ 65-68 ft from my house.

Both plumbers told me that they can snake the line, but the clog in the city main at 65-68 ft in front of my house will continue to get clogged up and create a reoccurring problem if not addressed.

My house is older and does not have a clean out in the front yard, which the city DPW workers have told me would be needed for them to inspect the line, but is a very costly project for me to have to add when the issue is not with my lateral sewer line. I have the city recommended sewer line insurance with American Water Resources, but since the issue is with the city main line, not my own, they say all they can do is snake the line when a back-up occurs – not install a clean out for the city's behalf.

I am asking that the city do their own camera investigation from the manhole next door to confirm the blockage in the main sewer line. City sewer mains are owned, maintained, and accessed by Baltimore City through municipal sewer manholes. A private yard or basement cleanout is used solely for access to a homeowner's private sewer lateral and is not required for inspection, maintenance, or repair of the City main. The absence of a private cleanout does not prevent the City from accessing or maintaining its sewer infrastructure.

I initially brought this incident to the attention of my city councilman Mark Conway who directed me to a DPW liaison Terrence brown. I've sent Terrence several follow up emails asking for updates, but have not heard back from him. I am simply looking for a timely response or resolution from DPW regarding inspection, maintenance, or repair of the City sewer main serving my property, which has already resulted in significant damages and expenses.

I am requesting the following:

1. Immediate inspection of the City-owned sewer main serving my property via the appropriate municipal sewer manhole.
2. Written confirmation of findings regarding the condition of the City main.

I have attached the most recent plumbing report from the 1/30 snake job indicating the issue on the city side, a picture of the camera confirming a clog in the same spot, and the Ramjet truck which is the only response we've received on 1/13.

Please consider this correspondence a formal notice of concern regarding City sewer infrastructure and response delays. I request written confirmation of receipt and next steps within a reasonable timeframe.

Sincerely,
Brad Dolny
113 ½ St Dunstons Rd
brad.dolny@gmail.com