

Fairview flooding study shows sanitary sewer system likely culprit in Clifford Drive area



[\[http://connect.cleveland.com/user/bmladysun/index.html\]](http://connect.cleveland.com/user/bmladysun/index.html) By **Beth Mlady, Special to the Sun News**

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FAIRVIEW PARK, Ohio – **City council members** [\[http://www.fairviewpark.org/government/city-council/council-members/\]](http://www.fairviewpark.org/government/city-council/council-members/), the mayor and other city administrators, as well as several residents, on Monday evening heard engineering firm Black and Veatch [\[http://bv.com/\]](http://bv.com/) explain why frequent flooding in the Clifford Drive area, between West 229th and West 227th streets, as well as between West 220th and West 214th streets, is likely being caused by sanitary sewer system problems and not necessarily by the storm sewers.

Flow meters installed in manholes earlier this year yielded important data, Dianne Sumego of Black and Veatch said. She listed shallow sewer pipes, blockages, minimal pipe slope, excessive inflow and infiltration and water flow bottlenecks as contributing to [basement flooding that has plagued the city for decades \[http://www.cleveland.com/fairview-park/index.ssf/2014/11/fairviews_long-term_flooding_s.html\]](http://www.cleveland.com/fairview-park/index.ssf/2014/11/fairviews_long-term_flooding_s.html). Sumego emphasized Monday's meeting was "the first of many presentations" she will make in the coming months.

"Instead of doing a bunch of projects, we looked for the best solution," Sumego said. "We've got two main projects that we're looking at that will help resolve some of the problems that you're having with your flooding, and some that we'll be looking at in the future."

She cautioned, however, "There are some cases in older systems that no matter what we do, you still may flood."

Using an industry standard five-year storm scenario, Black and Veatch collected readings that indicated a great amount of inflow and infiltration in the pipes. The study also showed a need to increase capacity by upsizing pipes on Clifford Drive to remove a bottleneck, thus reducing basement flooding on West 229th Street. Another solution will be to lower the sanitary sewer, which will increase storage and improve the water flow's [hydraulic grade line \[http://onlinemanuals.txdot.gov/txdotmanuals/hyd/hydraulic_grade_line_analysis.htm\]](http://onlinemanuals.txdot.gov/txdotmanuals/hyd/hydraulic_grade_line_analysis.htm).

Interestingly, a known problem exists with basement flooding on West 227th Street between Lorain Road and Clifford Drive, Sumego said, "but it's not reflected in the (Black and Veatch) model." Field investigations will be undertaken to determine the cause of those issues.

She recommended the city focus only on the sanitary sewer system at this time since it appears to be where inflow and infiltration are causing the most backups. A few visibly frustrated Parkcliff Drive residents questioned why their neighborhood was not included in the current study.

"When we looked at the data from all the storms we've had and identified them all, we had to break it up into certain areas and (decide) where the biggest impact is that we can get for the limited amount of funds that we have," Mayor Eileen Patton responded. "The whole city needs work, there's no question."

It's likely the city will need to collaborate "hand in hand with a neighboring community" to address downstream issues because a pump station in Ward 5 "is not keeping up with the flows," Sumego said, going on to ask for residents' patience. Some system fixes will begin early next year.

"We want to make sure we do the right projects at the right time," she said. "Each phase will provide you relief. We're going to get you dry again."

The Black and Veatch report is still in draft form and not available for public review at this time.

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