



Debra N. Pospiech
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July 12, 2022

VIA EMAIL AND REGULAR MAIL

Ms. Susana R. Paynes
Mr. Jermaine Paynes
14260 Northlawn Street
Detroit, MI 48238-2439

RE: 15119 Prest, Detroit, Michigan

Dear Ms. Paynes and Mr. Paynes,

This letter is in response to Mr. Paynes' repeated requests for installation of a new water service line at the above-captioned property.

First and foremost, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) is not responsible for installing a new water service line at this property. This house was purchased from the Detroit Land Bank "as is," with a specific disclaimer that the status of the property's water service line was unknown. Further, there was written notice to you if the service line were disconnected from the main, the cost to reconnect could exceed \$10,000 and would be at the purchaser's expense. You proceeded with closing on the property. Any dispute regarding notice of a service line disconnection is between the buyer and the Land Bank. I understand you have addressed this issue with the Land Bank on numerous occasions and you are unhappy with the result. Director Gary Brown generously offered to replace the service line based on comments you made at Board of Water Commissioners meetings, but DWSD was not legally obligated to do so.

Secondly, to have a service line installed, every customer must have a permit, which is contingent upon the home having proper internal plumbing fixtures and a functioning private sewer lateral confirmed by a certified plumber who televises the line. Simply stated, DWSD cannot connect service to the home if the water has nowhere to go, as this would expose the home to significant property damage and raise liability issues for DWSD.

DWSD inspected your home on May 25, 2022, and learned that internal plumbing was deficient and the sewer drains were full. We cannot install a water line until the plumbing is brought up to code and there is a functioning private sewer lateral. These repairs must be completed at the homeowner's expense.

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When the home comes into compliance and is ready for occupancy, we will place this address in the queue for service line installation. Please keep in mind that we prioritize installations at currently occupied households with lead service lines, especially homes with small children. Next, we prioritize our work based on readiness for occupancy and whether it will be owner occupied.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office. I have instructed the Customer Service team to forward any further inquiries from you to my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Debra N. Pospiech". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "P".

Debra N. Pospiech, Esq.

cc: Gary A Brown, Director
Board of Water Commissioners