



Detroit Water and Sewerage Department  
*Water Board Building*  
735 Randolph Street, Detroit, MI 48226  
313-267-8000 □ [detroitmi.gov/DWSD](http://detroitmi.gov/DWSD)

March 20, 2025

Jermaine Rico Paynes  
14260 Northlawn Street  
Detroit, MI 48238

RE: Water Main Selection in District 6 (CS-1921 Task 13)

Dear Mr. Paynes:

The Board of Water Commissioners (BOWC) received a comment from you entitled Water Main Selection in District 6 (CS-1921 Task 13).

The water main replacements within Council District 6 were selected following a risk-based approach. The methodology included identifying clusters of high-risk assets within the project area (District 6 in this case), then evaluating the risk reduction potential of intervention per length replaced. These clusters and evaluation methods ensure that the interventions are both economically constructable as well as offering the greatest risk reduction possible within the contract's potential. NOTE: Risk is the product of an assets consequence of failure and probability of failure, notable criteria used in these calculations include Maintenance and Repair (M&R) History, Available Fire Flow (AFF) requirements, Water Quality, Population Density, Critical Infrastructure and Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) proximity, Pipe Size, and others.

North Corktown Selection: The selection of neighborhoods for Condition Assessment follows a prioritization method utilizing the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) Risk Model. This model assigns a likelihood and consequence of failure to each segment of sewer main within Detroit, DWSD then aggregates these risk scores together to the neighborhood level and ranks them so that an economically sized condition assessment contract may be planned and executed. At the time of procuring DWS-964, the condition assessment contract encompassing North Corktown, the neighborhood was ranked 12th, with all higher ranked neighborhoods already included in a stage of Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S.A. Smalley".

Samuel A. Smalley, PE  
Deputy Director  
Detroit Water and Sewerage Department

Cc: Board of Water Commissioners