



# Press Release

City of Detroit • Mike Duggan, Mayor

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** Linda Clark, 313-236-0282 or [clarkli@detroitmi.gov](mailto:clarkli@detroitmi.gov)  
Bryan Peckinpaugh, 313-410-2954 or [peckinpaughb@detroitmi.gov](mailto:peckinpaughb@detroitmi.gov)

## **City to conduct door-to-door outreach in Jefferson Chalmers and Cornerstone Village neighborhoods**

- **Assistance available for residents to clean and sanitize basement area following the July 8 rainstorm**
- **Affected homeowners are encouraged to call 211**
- **Licensed contractors will sanitize residential basements that pose a public health issue based on a city inspection**
- **Residents are encouraged to keep their basement cleanup/sanitation receipts and file a damage claim form with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department**

DETROIT – Homeowners who experienced sewage backups from the July 8 rainstorm may be eligible for assistance to clean and sanitize basements in their home. City of Detroit employees will canvass homes in the Jefferson Chalmers and Cornerstone Village neighborhoods on the city's eastside, Saturday, July 23 to offer assistance to residents.

The effort is being led by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) with assistance from several city departments including the Detroit Health Department, Department of Public Works and the Department of Neighborhoods. Information will be left with the homeowner which includes a 211 flier encouraging residents who require assistance to call.

Beginning next week, inspectors will follow up with visit to homes in the area based on the information received by the canvassers and United Way's 211 operators. The City seeks to ensure there are no public health risk in the homes as a result of the July 8 rainstorm. Following verification by a city inspector, licensed remediation contractors will sanitize affected basement areas to eliminate immediate public health risk.

Crews from DWSD and DPW will also clean streets and sidewalks to clear debris from catch basins based on inspections. Cost for basement cleaning and sanitation will be covered by DWSD. The City will not replace items lost from the rainstorm and homeowners will be required to sign a waiver prior to the work being done.

"Our first concern is for the health of residents whose basements were flooded as a result of this storm," said Mayor Mike Duggan, who will be going door-to-door with other volunteers. "We have several city departments and other partners coordinating to make sure we bring assistance as quickly as possible to those who need it."

Residents who have cleaned and sanitized their basements as a result of the July 8 rain storm are encouraged to save receipts and file a damage claim with DWSD. Claims may be downloaded from the City website at [www.detroitmi.gov/dwsd](http://www.detroitmi.gov/dwsd). Residents have 45 days from



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when the sewage backup was discovered, according to state law, to submit a claim. DWSD will respond to the resident's claim within 90 days.

DWSD and the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) are currently investigating the operation conducted in relation to the combined sewer system during the July 8 rainstorm. Results will be made available within six weeks.

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