

I/I WORKSHOP PRESENTATION

**WEST ST. PAUL
I/I PROGRAM**

February 16, 2012

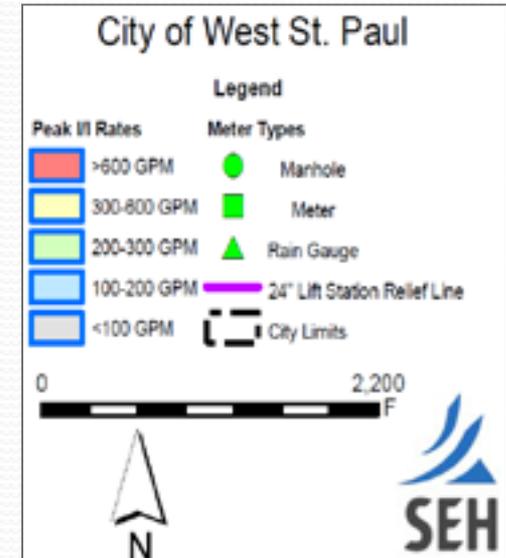
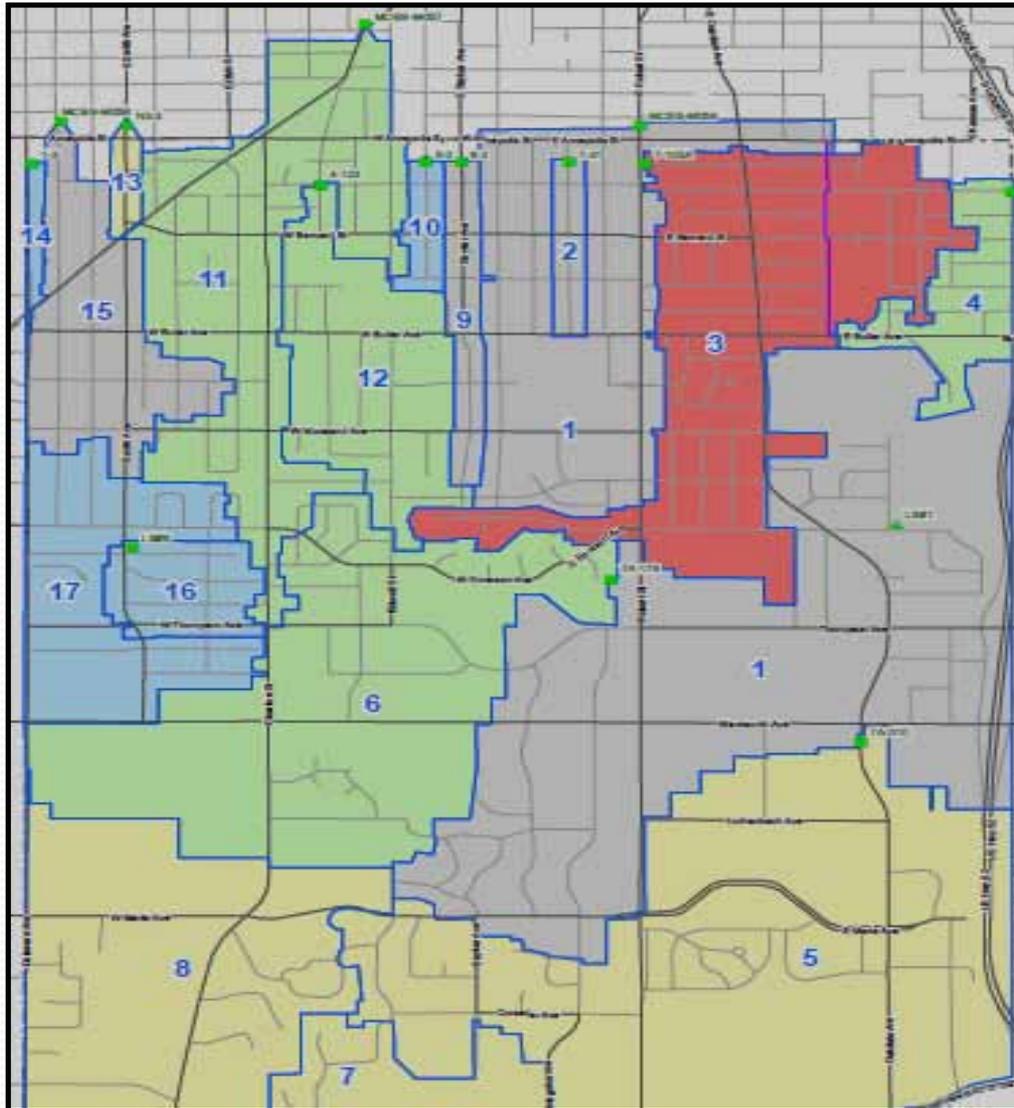




West St. Paul Program History

- ❑ 2006 – City notified by Met Council (MC) we would receive initial surcharge of ~ \$820k (\$132k for 2007).
- ❑ May 2006 – City solicited proposals & hired SEH to complete an I/I Study.
 - ❑ Study separated the City into 17 different districts for flow monitoring.
 - ❑ Study determined the worst districts for I/I.
 - ❑ Study recommended some form of private service inspections.

I/I Study – Sewer District Map





Program History (cont.)

- Summer 2007 – Had many meetings with Council subgroup on potential I/I program.
 - Overall, City had done a decent job on I/I mitigation on the public portion of sanitary system; it was the private side that was ignored
 - Initially thought we'd go with a more passive inspection program (i.e. POS or PMP)
 - Council subgroup concluded it would take too long to corral I/I problem with passive program
 - Subgroup opted for a more aggressive in-home inspection program



Program History (cont.)

- ❑ Fall 2007 – City was notified by MC that our surcharge was increasing to over \$180k/year.
- ❑ December 2007 – Kicked off the public process with a City-wide “Sewer Fair”
 - ❑ 50+ people attended





Program History (cont.)

- ❑ April 2008 – I/I ordinance allowing for in-home inspections was adopted.
 - ❑ Defines clear water drainage & makes it illegal to discharge clear water into the sanitary sewer
 - ❑ Defines the legal construction of a sump pump for buildings
 - ❑ Provides a process for inspections of private sewer services by City staff or their designee
 - ❑ Provides a 30-day time frame for property owners to allow inspection after being notified by City
 - ❑ Addresses violations found from inspection by placing a surcharge on sewer bill of \$50/month for residential and \$300/month for non-residential if violations are not corrected within 180-days

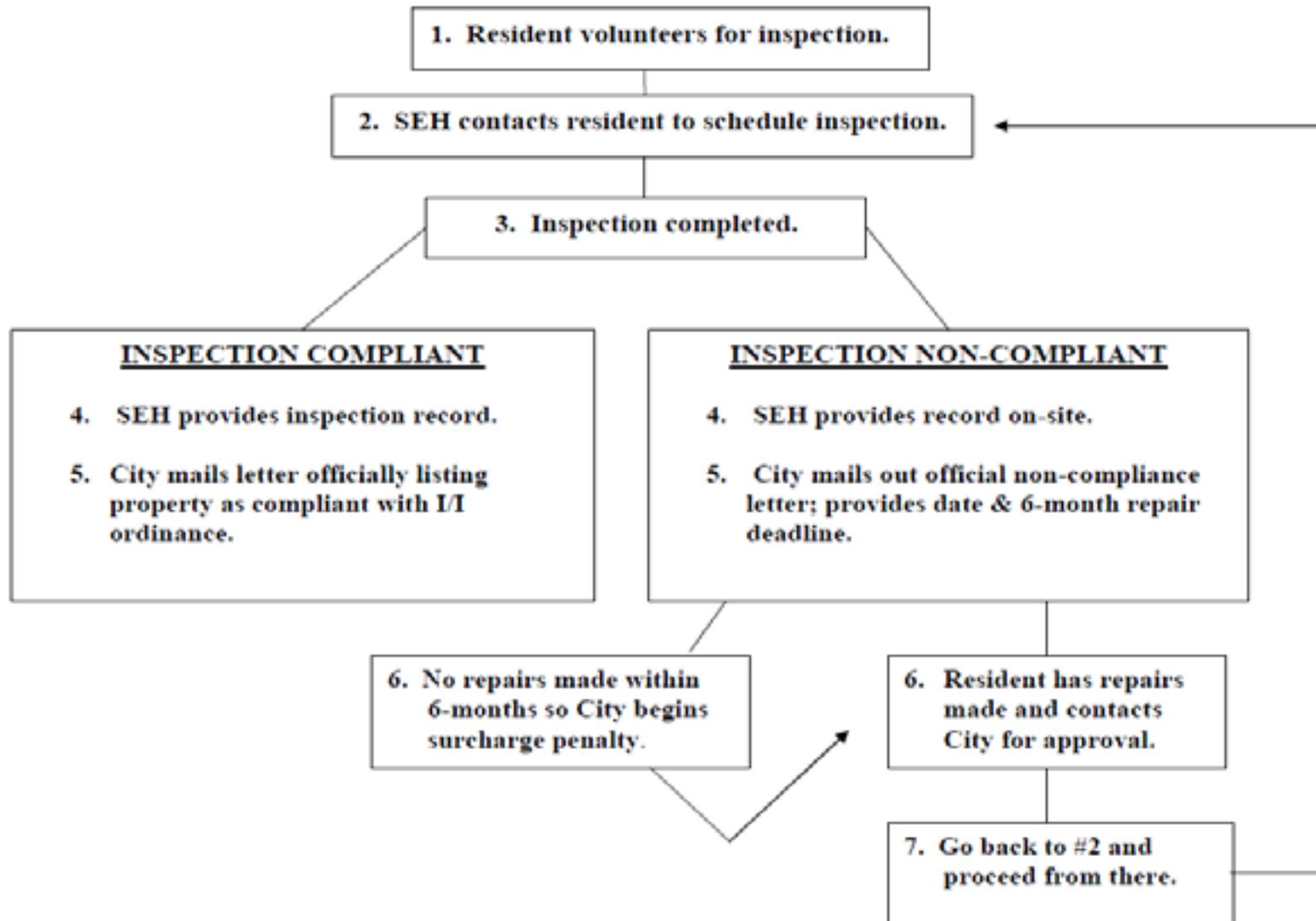


Inspection Program

- ❑ Began inspections in Sept. 2008 on a “volunteer basis.”
- ❑ Public process included: previous Sewer Fair, mailed notices to worst I/I area, another public meeting, newspaper and website.
- ❑ Inspection process worked like this...



Inspection Flowchart





Inspection Program (cont.)

City had a few financial assistance programs to offer residents:

- ❑ **Sewer Service Repair Grant** – City funded 50% of most I/I sewer line repairs (not disconnects or sump pump fixes).
- ❑ **Sewer Assessment** – City allowed residents to have their portion of sewer repair cost assessed to property taxes, (terms = 3% over 10-years).
- ❑ **Senior/Disabled Resident Assessment Deferral** – City allowed residents 65 & older or those with permanent disability to have their assessment deferred until the property is sold or death.



Inspection Program (cont.)

- ❑ Initially thought there wouldn't be much interest in allowing City to come into home...we were wrong.
- ❑ MC grant program – covered 50% up to a max. of \$2k for sewer repairs.
- ❑ Between City & MC grants, some residents paid little, if nothing, for sewer service repairs.
- ❑ By early '09, City switched from voluntary to mandated inspections on a block-by-block basis.



Inspection Program (cont.)

- ❑ Victim of our own success – the program’s popularity “drained” our sewer fund reserves (\$1M+).
- ❑ By Oct. ‘09, had to reduce our City grant from 50% to 15%.
- ❑ Currently, still have I/I program; concentrated on public infrastructure in 2011.



Challenges

- ❑ Popularity of our program
 - ❑ Dealing with the # of residents (760 out of 900 lots)
 - ❑ Explaining the program to so many individuals
- ❑ Spending proper amount of funds in each metered area.
- ❑ Explain/justify to elected Council people that the program is beneficial & reducing I/I.



Questions?

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