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- PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

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- MILWAUKEE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (RACM)



WILLIE C. WADE
ALDERMAN, 7TH DISTRICT

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COMMITTEE MEMBER

- ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE (SEWRPC)

BOARD MEMBER

- LOCAL INITIATIVES SUPPORT GROUP (LISC)
- MILWAUKEE SURVIVE ALIVE FOUNDATION
- WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
- FRESH COAST BASKETBALL CLASSIC

Statement of Alderman Willie C. Wade September 1, 2010

As a commissioner for the board of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), last week I joined with my fellow board members in unanimously approving spending \$16 million to install a pump at an overflow site at N. 59th St. and W. Trenton Pl. and another in Estabrook Park between Capitol Dr. and Hampton Ave.

I also voted to amend the district's current budget to allow \$8 million to be used to inspect thousands of private sewer laterals. While this initiative will by no means repair the damage and devastation brought by the 8.9 inches of rain that fell in my district in less than three hours on July 22, I believe over time it will help MMSD pinpoint certain areas and certain pipes that could be targeted for repairs and/or possible further examination.

To be clear, MMSD will begin inspecting laterals in residential areas, looking for problems. MMSD administration says the laterals they'll be inspecting are located under homes in 5% of the system. The work, expected to take at least a year to complete, will have crews using video cameras to visually inspect the condition of the laterals.

It's clear that Milwaukee's problems with flooding, basement backups, and sewer and storm water issues didn't pop up overnight, and they won't be solved overnight. Addressing these problems will take time, and I urge residents to muster as much patience as they can while we move forward with addressing this issue.

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