
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

July 23, 2010

Ald. Michael J. Murphy
(414) 286-2074
Ald. Nik Kovac
(414) 286-3765

City of Milwaukee Residents Urged to Report Flood Damage

Residents should call 286-CITY - AS SOON AS POSSIBLE - to report damage and to request pickups of debris and damaged items

City of Milwaukee residents and business owners are being asked to call **414-286-2489(CITY)** to report flood damage estimates as the city prepares to file for federal disaster relief funds and resources.

Alderman Michael J. Murphy, chair of the Common Council's Finance and Personnel Committee, said the reports and tracking of documented property damage is critically important in the next few days because of federal requirements tied to applying for disaster relief. "This is urgent and the sooner residents can get the information about flood damage and loss to us, the better chance we have of submitting a solid disaster relief application for Milwaukee," he said.

There are no assurances that the city will receive disaster relief funding, nor that any relief – if approved – could be used to pay for loss and/or damage to homes and businesses, Alderman Murphy said. "But we received between 35 and 40 billion gallons of rain water within three hours yesterday, which is a fact that should help convince the federal authorities to approve the release of disaster relief funds," he said.

Through Sunday (July 25), the city will waive pickup charges for residents who place damaged material and/or items at their usual garbage collection point. Residents looking to have such items picked up should call 286-2489 first to make a request and to alert city crews to the address.

-More-

Flooding Aftermath/ADD ONE

Through Sunday residents can also drop off debris and damaged items at no cost at either of the city's two Self-Help Centers – 3879 W. Lincoln Ave. and 6660 N. Industrial Rd. Proof of city residency will still be required to drop off any items at the two locations.

Parking tickets: By order of the mayor, parking citations issued between 4:00 p.m. Thursday (July 22) and 6 a.m. today will be voided.

Alderman Nik Kovac said city crews are proactively using special pumps at 20 locations where chronic basement backup and flooding problems have been occurring. On Thursday, city Department of Public Works officials and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) announced a plan to use \$7 million in MMSD funds and approximately \$1 million in city funds for three emergency projects intended to reduce basement backups.

“We also will be doing engineering studies to examine the system in areas of the city that have been experiencing repeated sewer backups, to see about making improvements that will address those inadequacies,” Alderman Kovac said.