



Cleveland Heights

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Mary Trupo
Communications and Public Engagement
publicrelations@clvhts.com

CITY CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON IMPROVING OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SEWER SYSTEM

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OH, 09/01/2017 - The City of Cleveland Heights continues to work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on the improvement and modernization of its sewer systems. The EPA is expected to ask the United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division, to approve the agreed Partial Consent Decree that the U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA, and City officials signed this past July, completing the two-year process of negotiations between the City and the EPA.

"City officials recognize the need to upgrade practices and to carefully study improvements that might be necessary in order to remediate this century old system to today's requirements and standards," Tanisha Briley, Cleveland Heights City Manager said. "As the Partial Consent Decree noted, the City has already made several improvements in the systems where frequent problems exist. Our efforts and actions continue."

Some of the early actions completed include the rehabilitation of the sewer infrastructure along Randolph Road and the installation of a new relief sewer on Fairmont Boulevard. The City has already initiated a comprehensive study of the system along with enhanced maintenance and management practices in accordance with the Decree.

The Clean Water Act requires systems like the Cleveland Heights sanitary collection system to operate without overflows that sometimes occur during wet weather. When the City's sewer system was built more than 100 years ago it was designed to overflow in order to prevent backups into homes during heavy rains, but current standards require updating the early 20th century sewer system. Many other communities are faced with similar infrastructure issues and EPA is taking similar action with other cities.

The Partial Consent Decree outlines phase one of the overall project and will require an investment of \$12 million between 2017 and 2021. The second phase will be negotiated following the completion of phase one. More information can be found on the City's website at www.clevelandheights.com.

###