GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION ADMINISTRATION
2100 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AVENUE S.E.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20020-5732

13 DEC 1994

Rec'd 12/15/94

Rec'd. FEB 23 2000

727-939-8060

MEMORANDUM

TO : Gary Burch, Administrator
Design, Engineering and Construction
Administration, Department of Public Works

FROM : Ferial S. Bishop, Administrator

SUBJECT : Drainage Complaint - Saint Anselms Abbey, Located on the west side of 16th Street between Buchanan Street and Eastern Avenue, N.E.

Site inspections and meetings have been held with residents impacted by the unhealthy and unsafe conditions resulting from the drainage problems occurring in the 4800 and 4900 block of 16th Street, N.E.

There is an underground stream that traverses through Saint Anselms Abbey and discharges onto 16th Street. Water flows down the west side of 16th street onto Eastern Avenue resulting in ground saturation in that area throughout the year. This condition has lead to mosquito infestation during the warm months and ice accumulating on 16th street during the winter months. There are no catch basins in 16th Street or on that section of Eastern Avenue east of 16th Street. Water flows unabated north on 16th Street to Eastern Avenue then east on Eastern Avenue finally discharging into a park on the north side of Eastern Avenue.

Pursuant to Section 2.(a)(4) of D.C. Act 10 - 312, " The Roadway, Alley and Sidewalk Improvement Act of 1994" you are hereby informed of the long standing health and safety issues surrounding the drainage complaint of this neighborhood. After numerous discussions with staff of your administration, it appears they believe that additional curb and gutters, a sewer line and catch basins are needed in order to remedy the drainage problems and protect the health and safety of the effected public.

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BZA
CASE No. 16531
EXHIBIT No. 41

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16531
EXHIBIT NO.41

I recently became involved in this complaint at the request of the citizens residing in the effected area. The citizens indicated they felt that they are being given the run around by a non responsive District Government.

I called a meeting for September 14, 1994 and requested that the Design and Engineering Branch of your administration send someone familiar with the complaint to update me with the status of the issue. This was an effort on my part to halt the non responsiveness experienced by the citizens in relation to this drainage complaint.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Al Agahi of your staff who indicated that this agency would receive copies of an internal letter D.P.W. would be preparing concerning this complaint and any request initiating the action necessary to move forward with activities which would eventually result in the needed roadway improvements being accomplished. To date the correspondence has not been forth coming and we have not been informed of the status of the adequacy of catch basin study that was requested as the result of the complaint.

We have been informed verbally that the residents do not have to circulate a previously required petition as apparently they already have curb and gutter on their side of the street. D.P.W. staff had led the residents to believe that they would have to circulate a petition before action could be taken to resolve the problem.

Rev. Turner who represents the citizens effected by the drainage problem is requesting that written conformation be made by D.P.W. that they in fact do not have to circulate a petition. They would also like to be kept informed of planned and scheduled improvements slated for their area which would address the drainage problems. Their interest is heighten by the approach of winter and the associated freezing and unsafe driving conditions it brings to their community as a result of the unsolved drainage problem.

CC: Rev. David Turner, 4889 Queens Chapel Terrace, N.E. ✓
Tom Roth, D.P.W.
Bernie Gascon, D.P.W.
Otto James, D.P.W.
Charles F. Williams, D.P.W.
Al Agahi, D.P.W.
Administrator's File
SRMD Files
N. Etienne
Program Manager