

INTRODUCED BY:

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

Council President Glendowlyn L.H. Thames
Assistant Majority Leader John Q. Gale
Councilman Thomas J. Clarke, II
Councilwoman Maly D. Rosado
Councilwoman rjo Winch

City of Hartford, January 14, 2019

***RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MDC PROPOSAL TO INTEGRATE
PLANNING INTO THE LONG TERM CONTROL PLAN***

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) operates most of the sewer system of its eight member towns which includes the City of Hartford; and

WHEREAS, much of the Hartford sewer system is over 100 years old and combines sanitary and storm water into the trunk lines which then run to the treatment facilities; and

WHEREAS, the MDC utilizes 4 treatment facilities to treat the sanitary and storm water which flows through the sewer system, the largest of which is located in the South Meadows in the City of Hartford. This facility presently treats about 53 Million gallons per day on a dry day and about 2 to 3 times that on a rainy day; and

WHEREAS, this dramatic increase in the water needing treatment on a rainy day can at times exceed the capacity of the MDC sewer system and the Hartford treatment facility causing untreated water to flow into the Connecticut River and some of its watershed; and

WHEREAS, these combined sewer overflows (CSO's) and resultant impact have, pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), lead to a federal consent decree with the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and a state consent order with the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), together referred to as the Consent Decrees, the components of which are set out in a certain Long Term Control Plan (LTCP); and

WHEREAS, the MDC believes the Consent Orders implementing the CWA mandates can be met by modifying the LTCP through an "integrated planning approach" which identifies "efficiencies from separate wastewater and stormwater programs and sequencing investments so that the highest priority projects come first. This approach can also lead to more sustainable and comprehensive solutions, such as green infrastructure, that improve water quality and provide multiple benefits that enhance community vitality."

WHEREAS, while treatment of the large CSO's during storms has been the target issue, the problem, as stated by the MDC, can also be addressed through a reduction in the CSO's through the use of so-called Green Infrastructure. According to the EPA "Green infrastructure is a cost-effective, resilient approach to managing wet weather impacts that provides many community benefits . . . green infrastructure reduces and treats stormwater at its source."; and

WHEREAS, the MDC has created Green Infrastructure and continues to investigate the efficacy of creating more Green Infrastructure to meet the challenges of the Consent Orders; and

WHEREAS, providing a longer time frame within which to comply with the Consent Orders can only allow the MDC and others greater opportunity to discover more efficient Green Infrastructure which can reduce the CSO's creating the current problems; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hartford is committed and hereby recommits itself to producing, promoting and partnering in Green Infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, the present plan for compliance with the Consent Orders has created a tremendous financial burden on MDC customers. Raising the additional revenue required to provide necessary upgrades to the sewer system, especially in areas of Hartford where the sewers are over a century old is untenable. As a result, with no substantial upgrade plan in place, over the next 10 to 15 years as the Consent Orders only are addressed, residents will suffer increasing failures of the Hartford sewer system which will be repaired as necessary causing random chaos in Hartford's streets; and

WHEREAS, said compliance will also necessarily cause greater business and neighborhood interruptions than a plan spread over a longer period of time; and

WHEREAS, the MDC has prepared an alternative plan, incorporating Integrated Planning, which will allow the MDC and its member communities to comply with the consent order issues while at the same time perform basic maintenance and provide improvements to the existing system in a more considered and orderly fashion; and

WHEREAS, with this Integrated Planning, the MDC proposes to reduce the cost of compliance with the Consent Decrees for Hartford residents over the next 20 years, but will thereafter be somewhat more expensive as the entire system is upgraded, and

WHEREAS, according to EPA guidelines, residents should pay no more than 2% of the Median Household Income (MHI) in their community for their sewer system; and

WHEREAS, the applicable MHI is the MHI of Hartford residents, not the MHI of the MDC member towns combined; and

WHEREAS, the MDC seeks the support of its member towns, including Hartford, in order to persuade DEEP and the EPA to approve Integrated Planning into the LTCP; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the City of Hartford supports the MDC's proposal to amend the LTCP by incorporating an Integrated Planning concept with the specific understanding and expectation that:

1. The MDC will aggressively, throughout the term of the extended plan, explore the ability to integrate Green Infrastructure into Hartford and the other MDC member towns, and incorporate such infrastructure into the plan, and
2. The MDC will compute and adjust the annual cost to Hartford residents of compliance with the Consent Orders and the LTCP, as extended, to insure that said cost is within the 2% of Median Household Income of Hartford residents as required by the EPA.

2019 APR 16 PM 6:27
TOWN & CITY CLERK
HARTFORD