



The Metropolitan District  
water supply · environmental services · geographic information

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT  
SPECIAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023  
4:30 PM**

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<u>Location</u>	<u>Commissioners</u>	
Board Room	Anderson	Healy
District Headquarters	Avedisian	Hoffman
555 Main Street, Hartford	Bazzano (C)	Holloway
	Buell (VC)	Magnan
Dial in #: (415)-655-0001	Desai	Steuber
Access Code: 43808661#	DiBella (Ex-Officio)	Taylor
<a href="#">Meeting Video Link</a>	Gardow	
	<b>Quorum: 7</b>	

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1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS
3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 5, 2023
4. REFERRAL FOR PUBLIC HEARING - SEWER ORDINANCES RE: PRIVATE PROPERTY SEWER CONNECTION POWER RODDING OR REPAIR
5. CONSIDERATION AND POTENTIAL ACTION RE: REFERRAL FROM DISTRICT BOARD RE: MODIFICATION OF BYLAW § B2K
6. CONSIDERATION AND POTENTIAL ACTION RE: REFERRAL FROM DISTRICT BOARD RE: DEVELOPMENT OF ANNUAL TRAINING AND ORIENTATION OF COMMISSIONERS RELATING TO COMMISSIONER AUTHORITY UNDER DISTRICT'S CHARTER, ORDINANCES AND BYLAWS
7. CONSIDERATION AND POTENTIAL ACTION RE: REFERRAL FROM DISTRICT BOARD RE: TERM LIMITS OF CHAIRPERSONS AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS
8. OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS
9. COMMISSIONER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
10. ADJOURNMENT

## SEC. S3c CONNECTIONS TO SEWERS

No person shall make any connection to any public sewer of the District or appurtenance thereof, or to any pipe or appurtenance discharging therein, or remove or disconnect any existing connection thereto, except as provided in this ordinance; provided, plumbing work and fixtures within buildings and similar structures may be built and connected as provided by local or state plumbing codes, laws and regulations and by permits issued thereunder. For new house connections to the District's sewer, the property owner may, at his or her election, request to participate in the District's Sewer House Connection Program established by the Bureau of Public Works, as may be modified or amended from time to time. The Sewer House Connection Program provides property owners with the option to pay for a new house connection over time as part of their monthly water bill.

The District may, in coordination with or as part of a District or member town's capital improvement project, elect to replace or reline a property's sewer house connection, including the portion on private property, at no cost to the property owner.

## SEC. S3s MAINTENANCE OF SEWER CONNECTIONS

~~All Maintenance of the entire length of sewer house connections on private property shall be maintained by, and at the expense of, remains the responsibility of the property owner, subject to Section S3i. When a sewer house connection is in need of replacement or lining, or for a new house connection to the District's sewer, When maintenance on an existing sewer house connection is needed, the property owner may at his or her election, request to participate in the District's sewer Sewer installation House Connection program Program as established by the Bureau of Public Works, as may be modified or amended from time to time. If the requirements of the Sewer House Connection Program are met, the District, or its contractor, will repair, replace or line an existing sewer house connection at no cost to the Property Owner. If the property owner chooses to not participate in the District's program, all maintenance expenses are borne by the property owner. The sewer installation program provides property owners with the ability to pay for house connection replacement, lining or installation over time as part of their monthly water bill.~~

## SEC. S3t SEWER STOPPAGES

In the event of complaint regarding a sewer stoppage, the District will ascertain if the main sewer is clear, and if not, any ~~stoppages-blockages~~ therein will be relieved as quickly as possible.

If the main (public) sewer is found by the District to be clear, the Owner will be so informed and the Owner ~~shall~~ may then, at his/her own expense, employ a licensed plumber, ~~reputable~~-cleaner or licensed drain layer to clear any stoppage in the sewer house connection.

~~If the licensed plumber, licensed drain layer or reputable sewer cleaner finds that the stoppage is within the sewer house connection located within the public street, and that the stoppage cannot be cleared by power rodding or snaking, the licensed plumber, licensed drain layer or reputable sewer cleaner shall inform the District.~~

~~If upon investigation by the District forces, the stoppage is found in the portion of the sewer house connection located in the public street and the stoppage is of such nature that it could not have been cleared by power rodding or snaking, the condition will be corrected by the District or the District's contractor without additional charge to the Owner.~~

~~If, however, it is found that the stoppage could have been cleared by power rodding or snaking and is not due to faulty condition (disrepair) of the sewer house connection located within the public street, the Owner will be so informed and shall pay to the District the expense incurred by the District. The bill for such expense shall be paid promptly, and failure to do so shall result in the District taking such action as it deems appropriate.~~

Alternatively, the Owner may request to participate in the District's Sewer House Connection Program established by the Bureau of Public Works, as may be modified or amended from time to time. If the requirements of the Sewer House Connection Program are met, the District or its contractor will power rod the house connection to clear a blockage at no cost to the Owner, if applicable. If repair, replacement or relining the sewer house connection is required, the District or its contractor will perform the work at no cost to the Owner. If the Owner elects to participate in the Sewer House Connection Program, the District will make reasonable efforts to clear the blockage in a timely manner and notify the Owner of the anticipated schedule of repair. The Owner shall be the party ultimately responsible for determining whether the anticipated schedule for maintenance/repair under the Sewer House Connection Program will resolve any blockages or other issues in the sewer house connection in a timely manner to avoid potential future damage as a result of the condition of the sewer house connection. Prior to any cleaning or repair being performed under the Sewer House Connection Program, the Owner shall, in writing: (1) authorize the District or its contractor to perform work on and within the sewer house connection including on private property; (2) acknowledge that by performing the work the District does not assume ownership of, or have a continued obligation to maintain, the sewer house connection; and (3) release the District from liability for future potential damages arising from, or related to, the timeliness or scheduling of any planned repair work and damages that may occur as a result of the condition of the sewer house connection prior to performance of the work by the District or its contractor.

Where necessary, the District will repair or renew from the main sewer to the street line (property line) any sewer house connection at no cost to the Owner.

It is to be understood that maintenance of the house connection as defined herein is entirely the Owner's responsibility.

## **SEC. S3u REPAIR OF HOUSE CONNECTIONS CAUSING STREET CAVITIES**

Whenever the District is informed or learns that a cavity, depression or other abnormality in the public street is or may be caused by ~~disrepair in the condition of~~ the public sewer or house connection, the District will ascertain if the public sewer or the sewer house connection within the public ~~street-right of way~~ is the cause of the street cavity, depression or other abnormality.

If the District determines that such cavity within the public street is caused or contributed to by ~~disrepair the condition of the~~ in the public sewer or ~~by disrepair in~~ the sewer house connection within the ~~said street~~ the public right of way, the District shall proceed to excavate and make the necessary repairs or have its contractor do so.

If, ~~it should be as~~ determined by the District that: (1) disrepair of a sewer house connection in private lands is the cause of any cavity, depression or other abnormality within the public street right of way; or (2) that any disrepair exists in the condition of the sewer house connection located in private lands, which disrepair allows or may allow the discharge of excluded or non-permissible wastes to the public sewer; or that any house connection is not being properly maintained; the Owner may request to participate in the District's Sewer House Connection Program established by the Bureau of Public Works, as may be modified or amended from time to time. If the requirements of the Sewer House Connection Program are met, the District or its contractor will power rod the house connection to clear a blockage at no cost to the Owner, if applicable. If repair, replacement or relining the sewer house connection is required, the District or its contractor will perform the work at no cost to the Owner. If the Owner elects to participate in the Sewer House Connection Program, the District will make reasonable efforts to clear the blockage in a timely manner and notify the Owner of the anticipated schedule of repair. The Owner shall be the party ultimately responsible for determining whether the anticipated schedule for maintenance/repair under the Sewer House Connection Program will resolve any blockages or other issues in the sewer house connection in a timely manner to avoid potential future damage as a result of the condition of the sewer house connection. Prior to any cleaning or repair being performed under the Sewer House Connection Program, the Owner shall, in writing: (1) authorize the District or its contractor to perform work on and within the sewer house connection including on private property; (2) acknowledge that by performing the work the District does not assume ownership of, or have a continued obligation to maintain, the sewer house connection; and (3) release the District from liability for future potential damages arising from, or related to, the timeliness or scheduling of any planned repair work and damages that may occur as a result of the condition of the sewer house connection prior to performance of the work by the District or its contractor.

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT  
SPECIAL MEETING**

555 Main Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06103  
April 5, 2023

**Present:** Commissioners Kyle Anderson, John Avedisian, John Bazzano, Allen Hoffman, Jean Holloway, Maureen Magnan, David Steuber, Alvin Taylor and District Chairman William DiBella (9)

**Remote**

**Attendance:** Commissioner James Healy (1)

**Absent:** Commissioners Avery Buell, Dimple Desai and Peter Gardow (3)

**Also**

**Present:** Commissioner Donald Currey  
Commissioner John Gale  
Commissioner Joan Gentile  
Commissioner Bhupen Patel  
Scott Jellison, Chief Executive Officer  
Christopher Stone, District Counsel  
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk  
Brendan Fox, Assistant District Counsel  
Steve Bonafonte, Assistant District Counsel  
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer  
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer  
Jamie Harlow, Director of Human Resources  
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Technology (Remote Attendance)  
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities  
Nick Salemi, Communications Administrator  
Victoria Escoriza, Executive Assistant  
Dylan Pecego, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)  
Dave Baker, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)  
Janice Flemming Butler, Strategic Outreach Solutions

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Hoffman called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM

**ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

***Chairman Hoffman resigned as Chair of the Committee on MDC Government due to recently becoming Chairman of the Bureau of Public Works.***

Commissioner Hoffman called for the election of the Chairperson. Commissioner Hoffman placed Commissioner Maureen Magnan's name in nomination.

Commissioner Taylor placed Commissioner John Bazzano's name in nomination.

Commissioner Taylor moved that the nominations be closed. The District Clerk called a roll call vote for the Chairperson position.

The result of the roll call:

**Bazzano:** Commissioners Kyle Anderson, John Bazzano, Jean Holloway, David Steuber, Alvin Taylor and District Chairman DiBella (6)

**Magnan:** Commissioners John Avedisian, Allen Hoffman and Maureen Magnan (3)

**Abstentions:** James Healy (0)

**Absent &**

**Not Voting:** Commissioners Avery Buell, Dimple Desai and Peter Gardow (3)

Commissioner Bazzano was elected Chairperson of the Committee on MDC Government for the remainder of 2023. Chairperson Bazzano assumed the Chair and thanked the Committee on MDC Government.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS**

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***On motion made by District Chairman DiBella and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of February 21, 2023 were approved.***

### **2023 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

District Counsel Stone, Brendan Fox (Gaffney, Bennet and Associates), Steve Bonafonte (SJB Strategies LLC), and Janice Flemming Butler (Strategic Outreach Solutions), provided an update on the General Assembly 2023 legislative session.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Judy Allen, of West Hartford, spoke regarding SB 1139, stating that in the past people from MDC have said that the task force that this would create is not necessary because the legislature can already change the charter. She stated that you cannot have it both ways; you cannot say that legislature can already do what they want to do but they cannot have a task force to learn what it is that they might want to do. Lastly, she stated that the legislature needs to have information to make good choices and the task force is something that could do that.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

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Date of Approval