

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT  
SPECIAL MEETING**

555 Main Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06103  
Monday, September 30, 2024

**Present:** Commissioners Kyle Anderson, John Avedisian, John Bazzano, Jean Holloway, and District Chairman Donald Currey (5)

**Remote**

**Attendance:** Commissioners C. Avery Buell and Maureen Magnan (2)

**Absent:** Commissioners Esther Clarke, Peter Gardow, James Healy, Calixto Torres and James Woulfe (5)

**Also**

**Present:** Commissioner Allen Hoffman  
Commissioner Dominic Pane  
Commissioner Bhupen Patel  
Scott Jellison, Chief Executive Officer  
Christopher Stone, District Counsel (Remote Attendance)  
Steven Bonafonte, Assistant District Counsel  
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk  
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer  
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer  
Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer  
Jamie Harlow, Director of Human Resources  
Susan Negrelli, Director of Engineering  
David Ruty, Director of Operations  
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Systems  
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities  
Michael Mohr, Controller  
Shereese Rodgers, Assistant Manager of Budget & Analysis  
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer  
Victoria Escoriza, Executive Assistant  
Amanda Litvak, IT Profession Level Associate (Remote Attendance)  
Jacob Aviles, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Bazzano called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM

**PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS**

Elizabeth Bryden, of West Hartford, submitted the following written comments:

**Comments for the Committee on MDC Government re: Agenda Item 5 DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION RE: POTENTIAL ORDINANCE FOR RETROACTIVE REIMBURSEMENT OF CUSTOMER SEWER REPAIRS**

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

Good afternoon,

My name is Elizabeth Bryden and I am an MDC customer and home owner in West Hartford.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment today on agenda item #5 regarding retroactive reimbursement for customer sewer repairs.

As many of you know, I have attended numerous MDC committee meetings for about a year and a half now and I have followed the MDC process, including using an MDC recommended contractor and following permitting and inspection requirements, in an attempt to resolve an issue at my home regarding a sewer lateral repair in January 2023. To briefly recap the issue, I had a sewage back up into my home and I had to pay over \$12,000 to replace a sewer pipe in the woods on someone else's property to which I had no access. In my case, the sewer lateral comes out of the back of my house, down a hill, off my property behind my neighbor's house into the woods on someone else's property and that is where a portion needed to be replaced.

At the July 10, 2024 Committee on MDC Government meeting, which I attended, the committee voted to develop a draft ordinance for consideration that would allow the Sewer House Connection Program to provide retroactive reimbursement for replacement and /or partial repairs to sewer laterals for some time period, to be determined, prior to the implementation of the program on July 12, 2023. I really appreciate the committee discussing the potential new ordinance today that would address situations like mine as this issue has been passed from committee to committee for a long time now.

In terms of retroactive reimbursement, I would like to note that the Hartford Sewerage System Repair Fund allows homeowners who have been impacted by damage on or after January 1, 2021 to apply for reimbursement so there is a precedent for retroactive reimbursement. In addition, I am advocating for the Sewer House Connection program to allow for partial replacement of sewer laterals and not just full replacements if a partial replacement solves the problem, as it did in my case.

To summarize, I respectfully request that the committee approve this new ordinance, with a reasonable time period for retroactive reimbursements, given that there is a precedent for the MDC paying for repairs to homeowners' laterals as well as a precedent for retroactive reimbursement for homeowners affected by sewer issues. I believe the approval of this ordinance will allow homeowners affected by costly sewer lateral replacements and/or repairs to seek fair reimbursement. Again, I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts again today and hope you take them into consideration.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Bryden

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***On motion made by District Chairman Currey and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of July 10, 2024 were approved.***

**NEW BYLAW § B6j “TRAINING”**

To: Committee on MDC Government for consideration September 30, 2024

It is **RECOMMENDED** that it be

**VOTED:** That the Committee on MDC Government recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution:

**RESOLVED:** That the following addition to The Metropolitan District’s Bylaws be adopted as follows:

**B6j TRAINING**

Commissioners and Citizen Members shall be required to complete annual training (virtual, in-person, or a combination thereof) which, subject to modification or expansion by the District Chairman, will include selected sessions from the following topics: Ethics/Conflicts of Interest; Workplace Violence Awareness and Prevention; Cybersecurity; and the District Whistleblower Complaint Policy. To the extent feasible, Commissioners and Citizen Members will receive the same training provided to District employees as administered by District staff.

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

***On motion made by Commissioner Anderson and duly seconded,  
the resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of those present.***

**POTENTIAL ORDINANCE FOR RETROACTIVE REIMBURSEMENT OF CUSTOMER  
SEWER REPAIRS**

The Committee discussed a potential ordinance for retroactive reimbursement of customer sewer repairs.

***Without objection, Chairman Bazzano tabled the potential ordinance for  
retroactive reimbursement of customer sewer repairs.***

**OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Elizabeth Bryden, of West Hartford, spoke regarding the retroactive reimbursement of customer sewer repairs and stated that she understands that it is not an easy decision but hoped the information needed will be available in order to make a decision.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

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Date of Approval