



BASEMENT FLOODING UPDATE
AUGUST 23, 2016

This update is being sent to the property owners who have reported to the City of Grosse Pointe that their basements were flooded during the early morning rainstorm of August 16. The City will continue to provide updates to keep residents informed as information becomes available and to answer questions.

The City takes this flooding event very seriously and wants to ensure that it is not repeated. The City has had engineers, pump station experts and equipment companies investigating the City's pump station at Neff Road since the morning of the event. The City's engineering firm will compile all the information gathered during the investigation, assess the occurrence and make recommendations on what steps should be taken to address what happened.

As you are aware, the City and the surrounding areas did experience a significant amount of rain in a short period of time, enough to overwhelm multiple area highways. At this time, it is our belief that the City's three large storm water pumps at the pump station did initially work after the rainstorm started to raise the levels in the City's storm water system. At some point during the rain event, a power outage to the pumps occurred at the pump station causing the pumps to turn off. Pump 7, the pump with the largest capacity to pump, was working but the control panel overheated, causing it to cease operation altogether. Pumps 1 and 2 had to be manually restarted by staff who were automatically called by the pump station monitoring equipment when the water levels started to rise. Once those two pumps were restarted manually, the water levels were brought down to normal.

Since the event occurred, the City has taken several interim steps. One is to post a staff person at the pump station during non-working hours whenever there is even a projection of rain. Over the weekend, staff were at the pump station on Saturday and Sunday during the day and overnight. This extra staffing will assure that pumps can be restarted, if needed, as quickly as possible. On Saturday, August 20, the Pump 7 control panel was fixed and the pump was tested successfully, although further review will be undertaken of the pump itself under storm conditions.

The City will keep residents apprised of the findings of pump station engineers and experts and is committed to taking the necessary actions to prevent a recurrence.

You may continue to leave out any flood damaged items and the City will pick it up. If you could please call City Hall at 885-5800 to let us know when you do, it would be appreciated.