

Bob Mollette

3rd Ward Councilman

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Correspondence#: 09-006

February 23, 2009

Jim Kalb, Mayor
Michael Jones, Solicitor
728 Second Street
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Re: **Reported Complaint @ 1615 Carroll Drive**

On February 2, 2009 the residents of 1615 Carroll Drive contacted me to express their anxiety with an issue concerning what appeared to be sewage backup coming from their basement floor drain. The residents had also contacted the City. The residents felt the event occurred as a result of high storm water in a drainage ditch along the back of their property. I documented their concerns for your assistance to assess and avoid conditions that exist within the Grandview Avenue area.

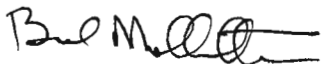
On February 3, 2009 I visited the residents to investigate and document their concerns. The residents informed the City had already responded to their complaint and complimented the City for their response. It was suggested by the City that roots from a nearby tree may have caused a blockage in the resident's sewer line and the City provided chemicals for removal. Also the residents were informed if a licensed plumber inspected their sewer line and identified the problem to be the City's the expenses would be paid by the City.

I later visited the City of Portsmouth Lawson Run Sewage Treatment Plant to thank City Employee Mr. Dwight Altman for the speedy and very courteous response. Mr. Altman confirmed, as in the past, if a licensed plumber identified the problem to be the City's fault the City would cover the expenses of the repair. Mr. Altman reported no other basement problems were reported from Carroll Drive that day. He stated the City verified clarity of the associated sanitary sewer truck line with the City's equipment and reported no blockage.

While the residents are considering their options; I want to document their plight and the City's response. My concern is the potential for the association of the high level of storm water running in the drainage ditch behind their house and the reported backup of sewage on the same day; these are two dissimilar events but may have commonality as a result of the City's Combined Sewer Overflow System. I am requesting the City to investigate this event to assure the residents that the sewer infrastructure is adequate, including off normal events, and if the potential exists consider a short-term solution of installing a backflow preventer until the long-term solution is implemented.

If you should have any questions contact me.

Respectfully,



Bob Mollette, 3rd Ward Advocate and Representative on City Council

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cc: Constituents at 1615 Carroll Drive
Honorable Council Members
Trent Williams, Auditor
Jo Ann Aeh, Clerk (Record)