



Office of the City Clerk

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Legislation Text

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ORDER

An Order to the Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Water Management to re-evaluate and reconsider cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) as an alternative to existing water main replacements.

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago water main replacement program is a necessary program to replace outdated and antiquated water mains across the city that have lasted beyond their expected serviceable life. The current process for replacing water mains relies on open trench excavations of the public way to access and remove old infrastructure, and to install new water main lines; and,

WHEREAS, this open trench process is very invasive, disruptive, dirty, and time-consuming. Most water main replacement projects last many months, and are subject to delays caused by unforeseen issues, such as unknown below-grade infrastructure, incomplete and dated public way maps, and weather; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois requires at least ten (10) feet of separation between water main and sewer lines. In many cases, water mains must be laid in or near where an old main was removed due to the proximity to an existing sewer line; and,

WHEREAS, not all water mains in Chicago are located under roadways. Many water mains across the city are located below parkways and boulevards, which often are home to large, old-growth, shade-producing trees; and

WHEREAS, in order to remove and replace antiquated water mains located under parkways and boulevards, these old-growth trees must be removed, thereby depriving residential streets of shade and cooling, natural flood abatement, and an important aesthetic to a community; and

WHEREAS, an industry-tested, non-invasive technology, cured-in-place pipe (CIPP), exists as an alternative that can provide a valuable, cost-effective alternative to trenching and water main removal; and

WHEREAS, this technology relies on a simple process that generally involves inserting a tube of a woven material like polyester, fiberglass cloth, felt, or other materials that have been soaked in a resin compound, and inserted into the pipe. The resin is cured using a variety of methods, including UV light and steam, and forms a tight-fitting, seamless cover within the pipe; and

WHEREAS, other cities of significant population and density, including Chicago's sister city Toronto, have successfully implemented CIPP projects. Many cities in Illinois, including Evanston, Rockford, Arlington Heights, and Lombard, have successfully implemented tens of thousands of feet of successful CIPP projects; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has, on many occasions and in many Illinois cities, issued the necessary permits for the implementation of CIPP projects; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago is a self-permitting city with regards to water main projects, possessing the necessary authority to approve the use of CIPP, and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago's only existing pilot of CIP technology, a roughly 300' project, showed increased water quality at the only home tested as part of the project. The pilot CIPP water main remains in service today, and has not exhibited any adverse effects; and

WHEREAS, a larger pilot program would allow the City to fairly evaluate the merits of this technology in comparison to the current trenching and replacement techniques, and

WHEREAS, the experiences of other municipalities demonstrate significant potential for savings with the use of CIPP; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDERED, the City of Chicago, the Chicago Department of Water Management, the Chicago Department of Public Health, shall be ordered to commission or conduct a substantial pilot program, consisting of no less than 10,000 feet of CIPP-lined water main restoration. This program shall be to be fully evaluated to determine its feasibility on a city-wide scale and should scrutinize CIPP's durability, cost-effectiveness, water quality, and environmental, infrastructure, and traffic impacts. A detailed pilot program report shall be delivered to City Council no later than July 1, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Chicago Department of Water Management consult with the Bureau of Forestry to evaluate all water main replacement projects scheduled between July 24, 2019 and December 31, 2020, to ensure that no water main projects under consideration move forward that would remove any trees from the public way.

BRIAN HOPKINS Alderman 2nd Ward

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