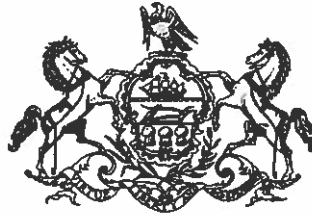


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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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ON REAL PROPERTY
MEMBER, JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION
ON STROKE PREVENTION

PUBLIC STATEMENT

WATER MAIN BREAK

On Tuesday, January 11, 2011 there was a major water main break at Marshall and Thompson Streets, flooding and causing significant damage to hundreds of homes and cars in the area bounded by Thompson Street, Girard Avenue, Marshall Street and Randolph Street. The Marshall and Thompson Street water main break is the 5th water main break in the Northern Liberties and Kensington sections of my legislative district (181st) during the last 3 years.

According to workers from the Water Department, the water main systems in sections of Northern Liberties and Kensington are well over 100 years old. Enough is Enough!

We cannot continue to react to one water main break after another before we realize that replacement of the system is more important than repair. Kensington and Northern Liberties sections of my district are extremely attractive neighborhoods for children and families.

Homeowners are sometimes the highest property tax payers of the City of Philadelphia. Both Communities have witnessed major growth of families. We cannot allow two communities to deteriorate as a result of a water and sewer system that is antiquated and stressed.

I am convinced that the City of Philadelphia must move towards a proactive position in dealing with the antiquated water

system in sections of Northern Liberties and Kensington communities. We must develop and implement a comprehensive Water and Sewer System Development Program for all neighborhoods where water and sewer systems are antiquated and stressed from increased growth and development in an area!

The City of Philadelphia has imposed a storm water fee on all residents and commercial property owners last year. The fee is in addition to your water usage and service fees. The storm water fee was imposed to generate additional revenue to deal with water treatment and capital needs. My storm water fee in December, 2010 was \$238.00.

The fee was based on square footage of your property and the size of your water meter. There should be more than sufficient storm water revenue to address the antiquated water and sewer systems in many neighborhoods. We cannot put this off until there is another water main break.