



**CITY OF GARY  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, May 11, 2012**

**CITY OF GARY AND GARY STORM WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
SHARE USER FEE PUBLIC NOTICE INFORMATION**

As Special Administrator to the Gary Sanitary District, Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson wanted to be certain that all citizens were aware and understand the fees associated with the Storm Water Management District.

“Last year, the Gary Storm Water District Board passed a fee to support the creation and maintenance of a storm sewer system,” said Freeman-Wilson. “It is an annual fee that has been added to your tax bills.”

Council Vice President and 5<sup>th</sup> District Councilwoman Kimberly Robinson added, “The fee is an unfunded mandate from the Federal Government that supports the clean-up of Ralston St. Lagoon. Also, other cities and towns have storm water fees.”

The Gary Storm Water Management District for the City of Gary, Indiana is charged with the responsibility of providing for the collection, disposal, and drainage of storm and service water and the relieving of sanitary sewers of such in the Storm Water Management District.

Polluted storm water runoff is discharged, often untreated, through the storm water sewer system directly into local water bodies. According to the U.S. EPA, polluted storm water runoff is a leading cause of impairment to the nearly 40 percent of surveyed U.S. water bodies which do not meet water quality standards. When left uncontrolled, this water pollution can result in the destruction of fish, wildlife, and aquatic life habitats. This polluted storm water runoff also serves as a threat to public health due to contaminated food, drinking water supply, and recreational waterways.

The Federal Government has required all storm water districts to comply with the Federal Clean Water Act. To comply with this unfunded mandate, the Gary Storm Water District Board of Directors passed Resolution Number SW11-06 (July 2011) to establish the creation of a storm water district user fee. This resolution was Passed and Adopted by the City of Gary Common Council by final reading on August 2, 2011 (please refer to City of Gary Ordinance CPO2011-41/Ordinance 8472).

## **CITY OF GARY STORM WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT STORM WATER USER FEE PUBLIC NOTICE OF INFORMATION**

The Gary Storm Water Management District of the City of Gary, Indiana, is charged with the responsibility of providing the collection, disposal, and drainage of storm and surface water and relieving sanitary sewers of such. Polluted storm water runoff if discharged and untreated, can enter the storm water sewer system and directly into local water bodies. According to the U.S. EPA, polluted storm water runoff is a leading cause of impairment to the nearly 40 percent of surveyed U.S. water bodies which do not meet water quality standards. When left uncontrolled, this water pollution can result in the destruction of fish, wildlife, and aquatic life habitats. Polluted storm water runoff is also a threat to public health due to contaminated food, drinking water supply, and recreational waterways. **The Federal Government has required all storm water districts to comply with the Federal Clean Water Act.** To comply with this unfunded mandate, the Gary Storm Water District Board of Directors passed Resolution Number SW11-06 (July 2011) to establish the creation of a storm water district user fee. This resolution was passed and adopted by the City of Gary Common Council by final reading on August 2, 2011 (please refer to **City of Gary Ordinance CPO2011-41/Ordinance 8472**).

### **BENEFITS OF STORM WATER USER FEE**

The user fee is an **Unfunded Mandate from the Federal Government** that will improve the City in the following ways:

- ◆ Supplement Roadway Drainage Improvement
- ◆ Provide Long-Term Maintenance for Existing Storm Water Detention
- ◆ Best Management Practices for Municipal and Commercial Facilities
- ◆ Minimize Off-Site Sediment from Construction Sites
- ◆ Public Awareness & Pollution Prevention
- ◆ Routine Testing of Storm Water Outfalls
- ◆ Enforce Illicit Discharges into Waterways
- ◆ Wetland Protection
- ◆ Flooding Reduction

### **HOW THE USER FEES WERE DEVELOPED**

Each parcel is assessed, either a flat monthly user fee or monthly user fee by acreage, based on the property class code that the property falls within (i.e., residential, commercial, vacant land, churches, charitable organizations, railroad and pipeline, cemetery, industrial, agricultural, etc.) (See User Fee Structure – Other side of this document).

### **HOW THE USER FEES ARE BILLED**

All storm water user fee bills shall be rendered on the Lake County Treasurer's Property Tax Bill and distributed as such. The storm water user fee shall be due on the same payment date as the Lake County Treasurer's Tax Bill. **It shall be a violation to fail to pay a storm water user fee when due.** All bills for storm water user fees not paid on or before the due date, shall be subject to a collection or deferred payment charge as rendered by the Lake County Treasurer and shall be reflected on the Lake County Treasurer's Tax Bill.

### **HOW TO MINIMIZE COST FOR NONPROFITS, RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES AND HOMEOWNERS: (NEW)**

- Pay the stormwater bill when due. Late fees and penalties caused by nonpayment are subject to various state, county, local laws, and/or ordinances and are non-negotiable unless, there was an assessment error.
- For information on appropriate property codes and combining contiguous properties as an option to reduce financial impacts, contact the Calumet Township Assessor's Office at (219) 885-0555.

### **MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE USER FEE**

A full explanation of how the user fee is determined is available at:

- Gary Sanitary District's Payment Center, 839 Broadway, Suite S100, Gary, IN 46402
- City of Gary's Information Desk and/or Council Office, 401 Broadway, Gary, IN 46402
- Websites: [www.gary.in.us](http://www.gary.in.us) or [www.garysanitary.com/GSWMD](http://www.garysanitary.com/GSWMD)

**Please direct any further questions to the Gary Storm Water Management District – MS4 Program at:**  
(219) 882-3000 extension 6743, or Email Brenda Scott Henry, MS4 Coordinator at [bhenry@ci.gary.in.us](mailto:bhenry@ci.gary.in.us)

## GARY STORM WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT USER FEE STRUCTURE

PROPERTY CLASS CODE	MONTHLY FEE
100 – 199 Agricultural	20 acres or less = \$2.50 per month. Greater than 20 acres = \$0.125 per acre per month.
300 Industrial Vacant Land	20 acres or less = \$2.50 per month. Greater than 20 acres = \$0.125 per acre per month.
320 – 399 Industrial	\$35.00 per month
400 Commercial Vacant Land	20 acres or less = \$2.50 per month. Greater than 20 acres = \$0.125 per acre per month.
401 Commercial Apartment 4 – 19 Units	\$15.00 per month
402 – 499 All commercial including apartment buildings over 19 units	\$35.00 per month
500 – 509 Residential Vacant Land	.25 acres or less = \$0.50 per month
	.251 acres to 20 acres = \$2.50 per month
	Greater than 20 acres = \$0.125 per acre per month
510 – 545 Residential Single Family Duplex and Three Unit including excess acreage	\$5.00 per month
550 Residential Condo	\$5.00 per month
599 Other Residential Structure	\$5.00 per month
650 Board of Education	Schools are not charged
600, 610, 620, 621, 622, 630, 640, 645, 660, 661, 662, 665, 669	State, county, municipal and other exempt properties are not charged
670 Exempt private academy/college	Schools are not charged
680, 685, 686 Charitable, religious and churches	\$15.00 per month
690 Cemetery	6.66 acres or less = \$2.50 per month. Greater than 6.66 acres = \$0.375 per acre per month.
699 Other Exempt Properties	Not charged
805 Utility Vacant Land	.25 acres or less = \$0.50 per month.
	.251 acres to 20 acres = \$2.50 per month.
	Greater than 20 acres = \$0.125 per acre per month.
820 Heat and Power Utilities	\$35.00 per month
821 State Assessed LHP	\$25.00 per month
830 – 841 Railroad and Pipeline	20 acres or less = \$2.50 per month. Greater than 20 acres = \$0.125 per acre per month.
850 – 871 Sewerage; Phone and Water Utilities	\$35.00 per month

### **City of Gary's Mission**

To serve the current and future citizens of Gary by providing a safe, clean and working city that continuously improves the quality of life of its residents and establishes Gary as a national model for urban revitalization.

### **City of Gary's Vision**

The City of Gary will be safe, smart, accessible, prosperous and green. City Hall will provide the citizens of Gary with effective and responsive service while maintaining high ethical standards and fiscal discipline.