



## CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

### City Council Agenda Communication

**Meeting Date:** May 12, 2025

**Prepared By:** Dennis Carr – Interim City Administrator/City Engineer

**Agenda Item:** Sump Pump Discharge Ordinance Update

**Explanation:** In 2022, the City updated the ordinance on both downspouts and sump pump line setbacks. There were a few areas around town where sump pumps were discharging directly onto the sidewalk. This was leaving the sidewalk with puddles that would ice over in the winter causing a safety issue.

- **Sec. 36-4. - Downspouts and sump pump line setbacks.**

(a) *Front and rear yards.* No person shall construct, install, improve, maintain, or permit to be operated on property such person owns or occupies, any sump pump line or downspout the discharge point of which is located on or across, or less than ten feet from a front yard or rear yard property line (i.e., the minimum setback requirement).

(b) *Side yards.* No person shall construct, install, improve, maintain, or permit to be operated on property such person owns or occupies, any sump pump line or downspout the discharge point of which is located on or across, or less than five feet from a side yard property line.

(c) *Drainage.* It shall be a nuisance for any person to suffer or permit the water falling or draining from a downspout or sump pump line on such person's property to fall upon or spread over the sidewalk adjoining thereto.

(d) *Applicability; waiver.* The setback requirements set forth herein shall apply only to new construction initiated after the enactment of this section. A property owner, occupant, or lessee of real property may seek a waiver of the setback requirements from the city administrator or designee. Preexisting downspouts and sump pump lines shall not have to abide by the setback requirements herein unless and until the city administrator or designee determines that the setback negatively impacts the public's health, safety, or welfare.

(e) *Violation deemed nuisance.* A violation of this section is hereby deemed a nuisance. Placement of a downspout or sump pump lines in violation of the city's requirements or the placement of which negatively impacts the public is confirmation of existing law in the city that an improper placement of downspouts and sump pump lines a nuisance.

(f) *Procedure for abatement.* The procedure for abating the nuisance described herein shall be governed by [section 36-7](#).

(Ord. No. 3474, § 3(96.08), 9-3-2022)

**Action Requested:** Discussion on the ordinance updates from 2022.