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June 9, 2022

Dear City of Washington Resident:

In its ongoing efforts to improve the City of Washington's infrastructure, the City will be conducting a program to identify locations where storm water is entering the sanitary sewer system located in your area. The study, being performed by the engineering firm Robinson Engineering, LTD, of Frankfort Illinois, includes smoke testing of the sanitary sewers.

Smoke testing is a simple means of locating openings in a sewer system that allow surface rainwater runoff, or other flows, to enter the sewers. Air combined with non-toxic smoke is forced into the sewer lines to disclose the location of connections and leaks. Smoke will appear where there are defects or openings in the main sewer line or laterals (connection between the main line and a building) or where there are other connections to the sewer system such as roof drains, patio drains, and footing drains.

The smoke is non-toxic, creates no fire hazard, leaves no residue, dissipates in about an hour, and is harmless. Smoke should not enter buildings unless there are dried-up drain traps or an improper sewer connection. To help prevent smoke from entering your home, please pour water into sinks and drains.

You should always feel free to call 911 in an emergency. However, if you believe smoke is entering your home from smoke testing, please contact a member of the Robinson field crew if they are still on your street, or if the field crew is no longer in your area, you may contact Robinson Engineering at (630) 346-2877.

The smoke testing will begin on **June 20<sup>th</sup>** and is anticipated to be completed by **July 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Additional notification will be provided by door hanger cards before the smoke testing is to start in your area and signs will be posted at highly visible intersections when the crews are testing.

If you have any questions, please call Joe Sullivan at Robinson Engineering at (630) 346-2877 or Dennis Carr at the City of Washington at (309) 444-1136. For frequently asked smoke testing questions, feel free to visit our weblink at the following address [www.ci.washington.il.us](http://www.ci.washington.il.us)

City of Washington  
Dennis Carr P.E., City Engineer  
(309) 444-1136