

From: m.l.elrick
To: CEO@GLWATER.org
Subject: REQUEST TO SPEAK: Detroit's Eastside needs action
Date: Monday, June 28, 2021 1:03:41 PM

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To: Sue McCormick, CEO; John Zech, board chair

Ms. McCormick and Mr. Zech,

I am writing to schedule a meeting at the earliest available opportunity with leaders and/or board members of the Great Lakes Water Authority to discuss the problem of flooding on Detroit's Eastside. I am a candidate for Detroit City Council here in District 4, but I make this request as a resident seeking answers and calling for action.

In the latest catastrophe, long-suffering residents served by Connor Creek were inundated with up to 5 feet of water in their basements. We were told Saturday that our water and sewerage system could not keep up with the unexpectedly heavy rain. While I have no doubt that global warming, which was cited as one of the causes, was a factor, my neighbors need GLWA to begin working immediately with the city on both short- and long-term solutions. If that work has already begun, residents need to know what measures are being taken -- and how they will be implemented before the next heavy rainfall.

Many of my neighbors suffered thousands -- even tens of thousands -- of dollars in damages to their homes. There is no way to put a value on, or replace, the precious keepsakes many of us lost. And for far too many homeowners, this was not the first time the system failed us. I heard from one Eastsider -- who found his washing machine floating in his basement -- that was the FIFTH TIME his basement flooded.

Clearly, this is a chronic problem. We do not fault GLWA for global warming or heavy rains. But we do expect GLWA to help find solutions to a persistent problem that is not going away. Without swift action by GLWA, Eastsiders will go through this inconvenience and heartbreak again.

That is not acceptable.

I look forward to meeting with you and discussing this matter at the earliest available opportunity.

Respectfully,

M.L. Elrick, 22 year resident of East Outer Drive