

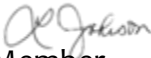


City of Detroit
Detroit City Council - District 4

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 16, 2022

TO: Gary Brown, Director, DWSD

FROM: Latisha Johnson 
District 4 Council Member

THROUGH: President Pro Tempore James Tate, Chair, Planning & Economic Development

SUBJECT: Sale of Property at 19015 Van Dyke

This memo is to request answers to the following questions regarding the sale of the property at 19015 Van Dyke.

1. Why is Oakland-Macomb Interceptor Drain (OMID) being given authority permanently over a City-owned asset that controls sewerage flow and thus affects sewerage collection within our boundaries?
2. How much did it cost the City of Detroit to build this regulatory gate?
3. When was this gate built?
4. If approval of this proposal allows OMID to control sewerage flow to the east side via the interceptor under Van Dyke or to direct it to the west side via the interceptor under Seven Mile, how do they make that decision when they have no information on conditions in the larger collection system or responsibility for the consequences of their decisions?
5. Why is it advantageous to the City to effectively give away this asset?
6. Is there any way that this asset could be operated by OMID, in its current condition or a modified condition, that would be disadvantageous to the City or its residents?

7. Isn't it reasonable to assume that when extreme storm conditions occur, whether in a year, a decade, or a lifetime from now, that OMID will operate this regulatory valve to the advantage of their residents and businesses even if it overwhelms our neighborhoods with their sewerage?
8. Why is this matter being handled solely by P&DD and not DWSD?
9. What effect does this decision have on DWSD and GLWA operations?
10. What is the relationship between OMID and the Oakland-Macomb Interceptor Authority (OMIA)?
11. The OMIA currently has a large project inside Detroit on East Outer Drive at Van Dyke. Their above-ground structure covers the Outer Drive median and three traffic lanes and is a block long. It has been there for over a year, but the public has not been given any explanation as to what OMIA is doing to our City-owned interceptor. It also appears that OMIA has been given control of the sewerage lift station behind the Northeast Water Treatment Plant and uses locks to keep DWSD employees out. Has the City agreed to give OMIA control of that station and other sewerage lines that emanate from the Northeast site? If so, when did City Council approve that?
12. How does this connect to the gate at 19015 Van Dyke?
13. Does the approval of the easement give control over this regulatory valve and rights to operate, maintain, modify or reconstruct it, or has that been previously done?
14. Why is this eternal, when we cannot predict the character and potential abuse that could occur by future OMID leaders?
15. What other OMID or OMIA activities exist within Detroit?