



Greetings Fellow residents.

As Chairman of the Prospect Heights Water Committee, I'm taking this opportunity to bring you up to date on what our committee members have accomplished over the past 18 months. When this committee was reestablished by our city council resolution in the fall of 2016, it was met with a great deal of controversy among residents that attended. That city council resolution stated our mission was "Whereas, the city council finds it necessary to create an advisory committee to study the city wide demand for a municipal water system and advise the city council on it's research;" I knew that we needed to find a way to alleviate that division and conflict. Our approach was to open the process and expand our reach to bring open dialogue in a fair and transparent process. This is how we have accomplished that objective to date.

- increased committee representation from 5 to 7 members
- created two subcommittees to address well water quality issues and SSA (*special service area - see definition)
- Participate in the Prospect Heights Block Party for the first time meet and greet with our residents
- Sponsored Water information forums in 2016 and 2017. Providing professional speakers and educators with knowledge on relevant topics for well water and municipal water system SSA development.

topics included Hydrology, in house well water quality purification, quality testing and water treatment options, how to create and develop an SSA. We paid attention to balanced interest between those looking for creation of an SSA and keeping their present well systems.

- increased, updated information, resources and website presence within our City's website (<https://www.prospect-heights.il.us/>). You will find a wealth of data and information on the restructured website that includes both print and video of the 2017 Forum as well 'How to create and SSA' featuring yours truly with a brief biographical video documentary of the only successfully completed SSA6 for single family free standing residences consisting of 162 properties.

As many residents in Prospect Heights know, water delivery options (well vs. Lake Michigan system) for our approximate 2200 free standing single family homes is a hot button topic. I speak from my 34 years of experience as a proud, actively involved resident of Prospect Heights. The topic of private well vs. a city municipal lake water system causes a great deal of consternation among our fellow residents. Our unique community is comprised of apartments, condominiums, and attached single family (Rob Roy) which are all connected to a Lake Michigan water system along with about 175 detached single family homes found in the Lake Claire/Shires subdivisions.

That being said like many residents that live here, we believe that our city is a relatively undiscovered treasure. I often tell people Prospect Heights is a "diamond in the rough". I believe we are slowly headed in the right direction. In order

to continue our progress towards fulfilling our city's highest potential, we need your help. We respectfully request that you complete the survey questions that follow in a sincere, honest and thoughtful manner. We ask you to contribute by becoming an active resident. Contribute to the city's future by constructively voicing your concerns. Our committee looks forward to reviewing each and every completed survey to help guide our direction. Please read each question carefully. In closing on behalf of the Water Committee members, we thank you in advance for reading about what we have accomplished and completing the survey.

*SSA- Special Service Area (SSA) is a special taxing district created by an ordinance of a municipality or county, at the request of residents, to pass on the costs of new infrastructure (i.e. streets, landscaping, water lines and sewer systems) to homeowners who reside in the SSA. They can be created to pay for repairs and maintenance of existing infrastructure. The funds collected through these assessments pay off bonds that are issued to pay infrastructure costs. Special Service Area boundaries are established by the municipality or county and can be a neighborhood, an entire subdivision or even an entire municipality.

On Behalf of our currently active Water Committee members: Louis Ennesser (alternate chairperson), Dee Munroe (Well Water subcommittee chairperson), and Sean Dwyer (SSA formation subcommittee chairperson)

Sincerely,

Bob Korvas Chairperson of the Prospect Heights Water Committee



BEFORE you start the survey

Here are a few words of instruction, followed by explanation.

WHEN is it DUE? On or before MAY 15, 2018

Where and how do I return it? Fax: 847-392-4244 EMAIL: watercommittee@prospect-heights.org

Drop it off in the GREEN box 24 hours/ 7days a week or Regular mail: City Hall, 8 N. Elmhurst Road

This survey is broken down into three sections. (1) for private well, (2) those already on the current municipal water delivery system and (3) everyone.

This survey will be shared on line or by request once it is tabulated. NO personal information (name and addresses) will be voluntarily made public. Please only one survey per address / property owner.

For all the questions that include the option 'OTHER', please briefly print. If you need more space then state "SEE BELOW" and use the question or comment area after the end of the survey.

ALL private well owners:

Have you ever tested your well? Yes or No

IF NO why not? (Please circle ALL that apply to you below)

(a) I never thought about it (b) its too expensive (c) I don't know how / where / what to test for (d) It's not my responsibility, the city should have to do it. (e) Other _____

IF YES: What do you test for? (Circle one or all that apply to you)

(a) Natural bacterial contamination (b) hardness (c) dangerous environmental pollutants and carcinogens

(d) Other _____

HOW often do you test ? (Circle only 1)

(a) Weekly (b) monthly (c) yearly (d) other _____?

Would you be interested in establishing a Lake Michigan water system? (Circle only 1): yes - no - not sure

IF NO why: (circle ALL that apply to you)

(a) Well water is free (b) it's safer (c) my well will never run dry (d) it will never be polluted or contaminated

(e) Other _____

IF YES WHY? (Circle ALL that apply to you)

(a) I don't like the taste (b) water pressure is a problem/drops (c) it's too hard, discolors, damages clothes, property, wears out/ ruins plumbing fixtures- appliances faster (d) no water if I have a power outage (e) I had to dig new well - costly (f) FIRE safety concerns (g) I don't trust it to be safe for consumption (h) other _____

Questions for yes, no or maybe answer above:

At what cost would you favor installing the necessary water main system to bring Lake Michigan Water and thereby making it available for your home to be connected? CIRCLE only 1 (**note:** the amounts listed below are hypothetical maximum amounts added to your property tax bill *per year for 20 years or less. **Example:** SSA6 has only 10 years left)

(a) I would Never hookup *no matter what* (b) up to \$1,000* per year (c) up to \$2,000* (d) up to \$3,000* (e) up to \$5,000*

Additional 'constructive comments or questions' here: _____

ONLY if You already have Lake Michigan water complete the statement below.

I think my water service is worth what I pay for it. (Circle) yes or no

IF NO:

(a) the water costs too much (b) service is unreliable (c) other cities are a better overall value (d) other _____

EVERYONE please answer:

Before you answer there were two water committee forums previously held: November 2016 and December 2017? Please refer to what was mentioned in the opening statements. We had several speakers and vendors available or presenting.

Did you know that we had two previous water forums? (Circle 1) YES or NO

Would you attend one in the future? (Circle 1) yes or no

IF 'YES' Which month(s) would you prefer and most likely plan to attend if there is another one?

(USING only and 'X', select up to 3 OR, select 'NO preference' if it does not matter)

___JUNE ___JULY ___AUGUST ___SEPTMBER ___OCTOBER ___NO preference

What topics - subjects - types of speakers- vendors- governmental agency- would you want to see and hear from at the next water committee forum? (Circle as many as apply and /or write in your idea)

- (a) The Baxter-Woodman engineering representative to explain the previous or current costs estimates for a municipal water system, why the system has to be designed in a specific way, and for a question and answer session.
- (b) The city engineer- treasurer - other officials to explain if we could obtain financial assistance which could offset any of the costs for a water system, how and why of the water allotments and water system master plan discussion with questions and answers.
- (c) How we could lower the cost of buying water through another source now or in the future.
- (d) Can the city of Prospect Heights establish a well testing program with or without a financial assistance / taxing ordinance?
- (e) The economic impact of not having the entire city connected to a municipal Lake Michigan water system
- (f) Other: _____

Please use the other side or blank space to **print any comments questions or concerns**. Your answers will only be considered if you complete the survey and include your name, address and contact information. All individuals' responses will be held confidential among city representatives, their designated authorized members, employees, unless disclosure is required under law or other regulations, such as but not limited to the freedom of information act for example. However the cumulative information will be disclosed, and responses will be tabulated in order to guide us forward in considering our city's direction.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Email: _____ phone: _____

Comments-questions-concerns:

(if you need more space attach a separate page but include your name and street address when you return it)
