

September 26th, 2017

RE: Westpark Well Contamination

Mayor Berkowitz and Anchorage Assembly,

On Monday, August 28th, 2017 the Sand Lake Community Council unanimously passed a resolution calling for action on a long-standing concern in the Westpark subdivision within our district. Our community remains distraught about the prospect of well water contamination due to storm water drainage into a nearby pond. We are also concerned about flooding due to inadequate storm water drainage systems. Your staff is well aware of these concerns as they have been voiced for many years.

Our resolution was a long time in the making and is not the first on this issue. This resolution does however formally select among the options that your staff presented for our consideration this past March. We have chosen the overflow system at the pond to be permanently capped and for existing and future storm water drainage to be modified to adequately deliver storm water under Dimond Boulevard and into the Cook Inlet.

For too long the municipality has chosen to ignore this problem, taking the position there is no possibility of contamination. The state legislature foresaw the need for additional studies and our contracted hydro-geologist Jim Munter has examined the evidence available to date. He has concluded that there is the possibility of connectivity between the pond, the aquifer, and nearby wells. After careful consideration of all the facts, our council has concluded that the risk of contamination is simply too great.

The time for action is now. Assemblyman Eric Croft told our council your office recently sent the developer a letter stating the inadequate storm drain infrastructure is still under warranty. We request the city pursue all legal avenues and require the developer to meet all standards to which it originally agreed.

In addition to pursuing legal recourse for this system's failures, our council also requests the municipality include a 'roads and drains' bonding measure on the April 2018 ballot to ensure all necessary infrastructure modifications will be made in a timely manner to resolve this matter once and for all. The health and safety of drinking water is paramount and our citizens demand this issue be resolved. A timely response to this letter is expected.

We invite you to work with us to achieve an expedient resolution to this matter and we hope you will acknowledge the severity of the situation.

Sincerely,

Sand Lake Community Council Board