

NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

*A PRESS RELEASE DATED SEPTEMBER 16, 2011
FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL*

YOUR NEIGHBORS NEED YOUR HELP IMMEDIATELY!

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A BASEMENT FULL OF SEWAGE?

During heavy rains, some of your neighbors are experiencing the horror of sewer back-ups and the potentially serious health hazards that come from the discharge of sewage containing urine and feces in their basements. Can you imagine how awful it is to have your basement filled with sewage? *You may be the cause and you may not even know it!*

Why? Because many of you have sump pumps or French drain systems that were installed improperly even though they may have been installed by plumbers or installed according to advice given by retailers. Engineering tests and surveys have proven that our sanitary sewer system is more than adequate when used properly. But no sanitary sewer system can withstand the discharge of storm water from basements.

These sump pumps or drainage systems must not discharge into the sewer system either directly or into a sink or toilet. It's the law! These connections are illegal and cause a danger to your neighbors and cost you extra tax dollars.

The Mayor has declared an emergency in respect to these illegal connections and has directed that this law be strictly enforced by all available legal means. *You will be given 60 days to disconnect these illegal sump pumps or drainage systems.* Each and every residence will have to be checked so that the people adversely impacted can be safe from the threat of sewage coming from other homes into their homes and making those homes unlivable for their children, their parents, pets and themselves.

We know that most, if not all, of our residents will recognize how horrible this situation is for some of our fellow residents. *How can you help?* Most residents will be able to do it themselves. Simply go to your basement and check where you sump pump discharges. If it goes into the sewer line or into a fixture connected to the sewer such as a sink or toilet, disconnect it. Re-connect it to an inexpensive, readily available hose that leads to your

yard or garden. That's legal so long as the discharge stays on your own property. In extreme circumstances, it may be allowed to flow into the street by way of your driveway or a connection to your roof drains. **BUT, IT MUST NOT FLOW INTO THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM!**

**DO YOU NEED FURTHER HELP?
Here Are Some Suggestions**

Information on the installation or modification of sump pumps and French drain systems can be obtained from the Hasbrouck Heights Construction Code Department. They can be reached at 201-288-2143.

The Hasbrouck Heights Police Department provides storm and hurricane updates on their website, please refer to www.hhpd.com. This website also includes a link to receive real time updates during emergency situations via the NIXLE system.

The Bergen County Office of Emergency Management offers helpful tips and pre-storm precautions on their website. Please refer to www.bcoem.org.

Residents and businesses who experience power outages can report the outage to PSE&G by calling 1-800-436-7734. Additionally, PSE&G customers can view the municipality's outage status by visiting www.pseg.com/home/customer_service/outage_info/outagemap.jsp.

FEMA offers a number of disaster assistance programs with information available by calling 1-800-621-3362 or on-line at www.disasterassistance.gov.