

**City of Elyria, Ohio
Stormwater Utility Fee
Letter from Mayor Brinda to Non-Residential Property Owners
March 29, 2016**

Dear Property Owner,

On behalf of the City of Elyria, we appreciate your organization's ongoing investment in our community and our long-standing relationship with you as a partner. It is in this spirit that we write to explain that utility bills for the city's new stormwater program will be mailed beginning in April 2016. The quarterly stormwater utility bill can be distinguished from the current city utility bills as they are green and white and also contain a unique account number.

As you may recall and as recently reported by the local media, the city is taking these necessary steps to comply with mandated Federal and State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit regulations and water-quality requirements.

While none of us want to pay more fees, the City of Elyria must comply with these unfunded government mandates. The city has been obligated to meet the requirements since 2003, and began remediation using general fund money and enterprise funds. Now, at the same time the local government fund from the state to Elyria has been significantly reduced, the cost of the NPDES permit and the associated costs to comply continue to rise. Without an additional source of revenue, Elyria can no longer make the necessary improvements to reach compliance.

How to generate the revenue to enable the city to address these concerns has been carefully studied by the administration and Elyria city council, with the support of environmental and engineering experts. After careful consideration it was determined that the most equitable method of generating revenue was a stormwater utility fee based on the impervious area of the property.

Details about our new stormwater utility program are provided with this letter. It is important that you review this information and if you still have questions, please visit our new stormwater-specific webpage at www.elyriastormwater.com or call our stormwater message line at 440-326-1429.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and consideration of this important matter. Please know that the City of Elyria is committed to working with you and your organization to help make the implementation of the new stormwater utility program as seamless as possible. Working together, we will meet compliance requirements and continue to make Elyria the community of choice.

Sincerely,



Holly C. Brinda
Mayor



Michael J. Lotko III
President, Elyria City Council