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## City of Brentwood Sewer Lateral Repair Policy

### For service, please call:

(314) 962-6234

Repair and replacement service applies to single-family residential uses only.

The service is not available to commercial or industrial (as determined by the use of the land) property. This service is also not available to multi-family buildings, other than those buildings where single-family fee simple ownership prevails, if more than six units are combined to form a building.

A sewer lateral is defined as a portion of the sewage system, which carries household waste to the Metropolitan Sewer District, or private, sewer main and which lies between the structure formation wall, or exterior if construction is non-traditional, and the sewer main. The definition is the same whether the pipe is located in the front, side or rear yard. Damaged or blocked pipes located within the exterior walls of the unit (inside the residence) are not covered under this policy.

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12/15/1997*

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A non-functioning sewer lateral will be cabled to unclog a pipe stoppage resulting from any cause at no cost to the resident. To report a blockage, a resident should call 962-6234 giving their name, address and telephone number and the reason for the complaint (i.e., sewage backup in the basement; ground sinking for no apparent reason in the yard; etc.). The service is available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, fifty-two (52) weeks a year.

If, in the judgment of the City, the pipe is clogged due to the collapse of the lateral, or penetration of tree roots, or the infiltration of soil, or the presence of an inextricable object, the City will replace the pipe and restore the property to a level state. The City will not be responsible for restoration of landscaping of the property.

In the event the City does not have sufficient funds in the sewer lateral fund to immediately replace a damaged pipe, the City will periodically cable the pipe to remove the roots, or other blockage, that has clogged the lateral. Should this situation occur, all units having blockage will be placed on a list in the order in which the blockage was reported, to be repaired or replaced in the order reported.

The responsibility of the City is limited to excavation, repair or replacement of the lateral pipe, and backfilling in a workmanlike manner. The top six inches of the backfill material will be topsoil. It will be the responsibility of the dwelling owner to restore landscaping and ground cover, including grass, in whatever manner they choose. The City will not be responsible for restoration of the yard to a grass or landscaped surface.

It will be the responsibility of the City to replace sidewalks, driveways and streets removed to accomplish the repair. In the event it is necessary to remove accessory structures such as fences, the City will restore such fences to their preexisting condition. In the event obstacles such as yard sheds, garages, etc. are in the path of the lateral and lie over the damaged portion of the lateral, the City reserves the right to reroute the lateral to avoid the necessity of removing the structure. In the event rerouting is impractical, the City and the homeowner will meet to discuss a solution equitable to both parties.

In the event a dispute arises which has not been resolved through negotiation, the resolution will be brought before the City's Board of Adjustment acting as arbitrators (not in their role as a Board of Adjustment, hence without a court reporter and public hearing) for their decision. Should the property owner disagree with the position of the City and the outcome of the Board of Adjustment's arbitration decision, the City will refund the full amount of the tax collected from that property owner, and the property owner may repair and replace the lateral at their own expense. Of course, the repair and replacement must be handled through normal permit procedures.

A property owner may contract with the City-hired sewer lateral contractor to have plumbing services performed inside the walls of the dwelling unit. If they do so, it is a separate and private negotiation. The City is not responsible for the performance or guarantee or any other aspect of the private agreement between the owner and the contractor. The property owner is responsible for ensuring the contractor has obtained all necessary permits.