

# CITY OF NORWALK

## DEPARTMENT OF STREETS & WATER

### STORMWATER BY-LAWS

### RULES AND REGULATIONS

Pursuant to the authority of the Ohio Revised Code 6113:

#### **DEFINITION - Stormwater**

Per Ohio Revised Code: “Storm water” means storm water runoff, snow melt runoff and surface runoff and drainage.

#### **RULE 1 - Introduction**

The following regulations as adopted by the Safety Service Director of the City of Norwalk, Ohio are published for the information and guidance of all users of the contract between the City of Norwalk, Ohio and each user and owner of premises where city stormwater is generated.

#### **RULE 2 – Storm Water Control and Contents**

The Public Stormwater System of Norwalk, Ohio, including all storm “sewer” mains, detention or retention ponds, lateral lines, ditches, manholes and services, are under the exclusive control of the Director of Public Works and/or his authorized agents and employees. Typically storm water is generated from rainfall or snowmelt, and is typically “clear” water unchanged by man-made contaminants (i.e. sewage, oils, soaps).

#### **RULE 3 – Storm Water Connections**

No person or firm shall make or maintain a physical connection between any “gray” water (sanitary sewer) source and the storm sewer system. If such a connection is made, it will be considered as a cross-connection, and if not removed, will be just cause for discontinuing water service.

#### **RULE 4 - Billing**

A storm sewer fee will be charged for any parcel developed beyond grass or natural vegetation. Bills will be incorporated into water/sewer bills wherever possible. Billing is based on the average impervious area of a Single Family Residential Unit of 3800 s.f., this measurement unit will be designated as 1 ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit). Storm sewer billing shall be based on a multiple (or fraction) of the ERU value for each property subject to this fee. Billing will occur on a monthly basis, except for accounts where other utility services are non-existent or discontinued, those will be billed semi-annually (Jan & June).

A. Except as listed below, all bills shall be billed to the property owner.

- Commercial or mixed use (commercial/residential) buildings with multiple tenants, where each tenant has their own water meter and all tenants take up space under one roof (i.e. multi-story downtown buildings)
- Private streets and common areas within private property will be billed to the Home Owner’s Association (HOA), or common area account where ever possible.

#### **RULE 5 – Single Family Units**

A single family unit dwelling shall be billed the rate of 1 ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit).

#### **RULE 6 – Multi-Family Units**

- A. Multi-family (2 and 3 families) bills shall be considered 1 ERU, and when divided, rounded to the nearest .01 (hundredth) of a unit when calculating per-unit costs. (*Ex: Building A = 1ERU with 3 tenants/units : 1/3 = .33 ERU’s billed per tenant*)
- B. Multi-family (>3 families) bills shall be calculated by measuring the impervious size of the unit and dividing it by 3800 s.f. (rounded to the nearest .01) to calculate ERU’s (1 ERU min.), then dividing the ERU’s by the number of water meters. Measurements for these units shall be rounded to the nearest whole ERU. (*Ex: Building B = 4ERU with 6 tenants/units : 4/6 = .67 ERU’s billed per tenant*)
- C. Multi family (>1) condo units constructed on separate parcels shall each be billed as individual residences, and billed at 1 ERU per unit (see Rule 5).

**RULE 7 – Commercial Mixed Use Units**

Commercial mixed-use units with multiple tenants, where each tenant has their own water meter and reside under the same roof area, each shall be charged equally, by dividing the total number of ERU's by the number of tenants under that roof area. There is a minimum of 1 ERU charged for these units, and, when divided, rounded to the nearest .01 of an ERU.

*(Ex: Building C = 6 ERU's with 2 tenants(accounts) : 6/2 = 3 ERU's billed per tenant/account)*

**RULE 7 – Impervious Area**

Areas deemed impervious shall include:

- A. Any surface that significantly accelerates runoff or impedes the infiltration of precipitation.
- B. All hard surfaces, most common are roofs, driveways, patios, parking lots, storage areas and access driveways.

Typical surfaces are gravel, asphalt, concrete and roofing materials.

**RULE 8 – Billing/ERU Calculation Appeal**

A customer may submit a request for a storm sewer fee amendment to the Safety Service Director, if they can show that a former impervious area has been turned back to a natural, pervious “green” area, or if they believe an area has been mis-calculated by the City. This request should be accompanied by a scaled drawing showing the impervious areas of the parcel in question. This drawing shall be signed by the party responsible for the calculation and drawing.

**RULE 9 - Repair Responsibilities**

Whenever a break or leak occurs in a service line between the storm sewer main and the structure, unless damaged by a City contractor or City employee, the home owner will make repairs at their expense. Failure to make repairs will result in the water being turned off.

**RULE 10 - Tap Fees**

The City may require a storm water tie-in fee to an existing storm line. See the Fee Schedule as set by the Public Works Director.

Excavations and backfill for the installation of all water taps and service lines shall be performed by the customer. The standard permit and deposit as required for excavation in a paved street shall apply and the cost of same shall be in addition to any tap charges as listed herein.

**RULE 11 - Inspection and Plan Review Fees**

Charges for storm water tap plan review(s) and tap inspections to compensate for the time will be charged as appropriate in a Fee Schedule in amounts as determined by the Public Works Director.

**RULE 12 – Service Line Activation**

Subsequent to all fees being paid in full, inspection approval and backfilling, the storm water service line may be used for its intended purpose.

**RULE 13 – Right to Inspect**

The City of Norwalk reserves the right to inspect all storm water/sewer lines connecting to the approved or established storm sewer main.

**RULE 14 – Exemptions**

All properties and buildings owned by the City of Norwalk, are exempted from this fee.