

## Seeking Town's assistance with Lower Brown Street's stormwater basin

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Mon 10/25/2021 10:20 AM

To: John Compton <johncompton@me.com>; Darrell Anderson <deanderson47@verizon.net>; David Cosson <dcosson@rcn.com>; Pat Klein <patriceklein@hotmail.com>; Christine Dibble <christinedibble@outlook.com>; Barbara Raimondo <baraimondo@me.com>; Gray Yachup <gyachup@gmail.com>

Cc: Steven Werts <cynthiawerts410@icloud.com>

 2 attachments (13 MB)

StormBasinPostHurricaneIda1.jpg; StormBasinPostHurricaneIda2.jpg;

To the Mayor and Council:

We are writing to the mayor and council to express our concerns regarding the Town's continuing maintenance of the stormwater basin once Steve Werts retires in December. The stormwater basin in question adjoins our property and is located at the terminus of Brown Street's 500 block. Two photos are attached showing the basin as it appeared on September 2, immediately following a period of torrential rainfall that occurred when the remnants of Hurricane Ida moved across the region. You will note that although the water level is quite high, the basin has not overflowed its banks. If it had overflowed its banks, there would have been a danger of water entering our basement, causing considerable damage. Others in neighboring communities, including Rockville, were not so lucky. Even those living in elevated areas far outside of floodplains were inundated by unprecedented flooding. See <https://www.washingtonian.com/2021/09/01/scary-scenes-of-flooding-around-dc-after-last-nights-insane-rain-from-hurricane-ida/>

For the past ten years, Steve has been diligent in maintaining the basin's drainage system. Recently we learned from Steve that the state performs a yearly inspection of the basin and then reports this information to the Town. It is our understanding that if problems with the basin are noted, it is then the Town's responsibility to address these problems. Steve, who has previous experience working with similar drainage facilities in other communities, has undertaken these repairs over the years.

Our question is: Has the Town taken any steps towards ensuring that this ongoing maintenance and annual response to the state's inspection will be continued in Steve's absence? Because of increased amounts of rainfall associated with climate change, the situation with the basin will undoubtedly worsen in the near future.

Because of this urgency, we are asking that the council consult with Steve before he retires in order to develop procedures and a timetable for the basin's regular maintenance and repair of any issues that are noted during the state's annual inspection. We also ask that the Town hire a consultant with expertise in stormwater engineering/management to inspect the basin and to prepare a report recommending any modifications needed to withstand events similar to those that occurred throughout the northeast earlier this fall in Hurricane Ida's aftermath.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Paul Campbell & Wendy Harris

507 Brown Street [PHOTOS ARE ON THE NEXT PAGE]

