

05/11/2019

Lydia Jones

1440 Jefferson Avenue Suite 246

Buffalo, NY 14208

Re: 361 High Street, Buffalo, NY 14204

Ellicott District and Council President Darius Pridgen,

Here's an update of the findings for the sinkholes and waterline problems since the 2015 letter pertaining to 361 High Street and surrounding areas. There are well over 90 sinkholes and waterline problems underground because of the major construction from the Medical Corridor. This area has the oldest water system in the City of Buffalo and by the disturbance and disruption of water flow, heavy truck traffic, blasting, drilling, digging like an earthquake effect which made an extreme ground shift changing the stability that was the major cause for the damages to existing waterlines which are making sinkholes and broken waterlines all over the neighborhood.

Here is a list of some of the homes effected since the 2013 start of construction for the High Street Medical Corridor.

361 High Street (2 sinkholes, street & front lawn)

359 High Street (waterline damage, which had to be replaced)

362 High Street (broken waterpipe)

161 Orange Street (sinkhole)

168 Orange Street (sinkhole)

183 Orange Street (sinkhole)

185 Orange Street (broken watermain leak in street)

198 Orange Street (2 sinkholes)

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05/14/19

222 Orange Street (replaced broken waterlines)
254 Orange Street (replaced broken waterlines)
255 Orange Street (2 sinkholes)
175 Lemon Street (pipe broke in street)
190 Lemon Street (pipe broke in street)
191 Lemon Street (2 sinkholes)
270 Locust Street (sinkhole)
278 Locust Street (sinkhole in middle of street)
290 Locust Street (waterline)
41 Peach Street (sinkhole)
53 Peach Street (3 sinkholes on property)
58 Peach Street (sinkhole middle of street)
66 Peach Street (sinkhole middle of street)
73 Peach Street (sinkhole)
149 Peach Street (sinkhole)
165 Peach Street (sinkhole)
65 Rose Street (sinkhole)
High & Grape Street (sinkhole)
Peach & North Street (sinkhole)

This is 27 properties just to name a few with sinkhole or waterline problems. We need new waterlines for the infrastructure of the Fruitbelt neighborhood. Starting with 361 High Street which has been without water since April 2015. The gas line was removed 2018 because of the house being vacant deeming this house inhabitable. Several families have been affected by this mass construction out of their control, several families have lost their access to water. Lost of water is a basic Human Rights violation.

The remedy required is restoration of water to all Buffalo families affected without delay. *New WATER pipes, New WATER lines to homes in the Fruitbelt.*
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (716) 510-4113.

Your Truly,

By: Jones, Lydia Jones UCC1-308
Lydia Jones *All Rights Reserved Without Recourse*

~~Two~~ Families are without WATER June 10th, 2015 May 10/201

three

Lydia Jones
821 Eggert Rd.
Amherst, NY 14226

361 High St Buffalo N.Y. 14204

Because of sink hole
in the middle of the street

To: Council member Darius Pridgen
Mayor Byron Brown

359 High St. w/o water 142 1/2
279 High St. (church)

Between 2012 to 2013/²⁰¹⁴ major construction occurred on High St. in Buffalo, NY between Grape St. and Rose St. The city street was completely renovated to make room for new waterlines, gas lines, and sewer lines. Digging and drilling was dramatically done to remove the existing street pavement so the new pipes could be installed.

With all of the reconstruction going on it is easy for mistakes to be made during this process. Damages were found, many not seen and repaired until 2 years after the construction. However, one property suffered irrefutable damage. This damage was not detected until April 2015 when a sinkhole formed in front of the property 361 High Street. The sinkhole was appropriately placed where the construction had once been. Rocks, dirt, and asphalt black top then filled the hole. The drilling and digging damaged the property at 361 High St.

Prior to reconstruction there was not any damage, now the city of Buffalo is placing the hardships of this tragedy upon me, the disabled homeowner. The representatives are claiming they are not responsible for the damages inflicted upon 361 High St...not the contractor, nor the gas company, water company, or sewer company or anybody else who had their hand in place for the renovation. Only the homeowner is found responsible. Not only does this sound illogical but it also sounds immature to place blame solely upon one person, who had little to do with the act.

So as the homeowner, I have informed the council member of my hardships and his secretary has instructed me towards the engineering department. The engineering department said they, too, are not responsible for the damages even though the entire street was replaced, but in fact I as the homeowner am responsible for the negligence and cost of the issue, not the contractor who the city hired who has insurance for such an issue.

The tenants at 361 High Street have suffered because of this due to the fact that even though they are disabled as well, and maintaining custody of small children they have found themselves

"Protecting individual life & property"