

Dear Vinny Nolan, Common Council

Date: July 21, 2005

c.c. Pauline Basso, Mayor Boughton, Richard Antous, Diane Yamin

Subject: My basement was flooded from the pipeline the City of Danbury installed in my backyard (I gave them an easement in 1982). It carries rain water from a catch basin on Germantown Rd, 5 catch basins located directly on 7 Germantown Medical Building property (owned by Mr. Hawley), and a catch basin on Firehouse 23 property, to a small catch basin in my backyard at 206 Osborne Street. then passing through to Springside Avenue.

An example is, you cannot pour 5 gallons of water into a one gallon bottle.

My home experienced Horrific Flooding on July 1, 6, and two time on July 18, 2005 of which I called 911 two times.

The flooding occurred to my basement where I have my washing machine, furnace, freezer, dryer, refrigerator, stove, etc. Was flooded with at least 8 inches of water.

Firehouse 23 drainpipes which also carries rain water from the drains installed by Mr. Hawley on his new Medical Building property go directly through my land. Also when the Medical Building was constructed in the year 2000, they installed a Catch Basin directly on Germantown Road which also connects to these pipes, all of which I did not approve of. No one asked my permission.

To give you some history, back in 1982, Mr. Garamella asked for an easement to install drain pipes and catch basin in my backyard which he wanted to connect to Firehouse 23 property which would be an advantage to them and to me. I fully agreed to this and it did stop all flooding rain water passing on to Springside contained.

Further improvement to the area was the City of Danbury opened up catch basins across from my home and Firehouse 23 that they found underground and clogged.

Another improvement came when the new Firehouse 23 building was built and the City put new larger catch basins on their property with curbing and paved driveway all connected to the pipes in my yard.

THE WERE NO FLOODS AFTER THAT UNTIL UNTIL THE NEW MEDICAL BUILDING WAS BUILT.

In May 2000, Mr. Hawley came to my home and asked if I would sign a petition for him to build a new Medical Building. He mentioned he was going to install catch basins but they would have back up drains which would present no problem to my property. I was not agreeable with him and did not sign, because it would as I mentioned above, be like adding 5 gallons of water to a 1 gallon jug. There would be flooding problems all over again.

I pleaded to the City and Hawley to hook up his catch basins and any water flow to the drains on Osborne Street and not behind the Firehouse 23 and my home.

I attended Council Meetings regarding the Medical Building construction and the installation of many catch basins pointed to Firehouse 23 and my property and expressed in person to the Council, my concern and that I was "not in favor" I had no disrespect to Mr. Hawley, only worry of more water passing through the back of my land.

I wrote letters to Sharon Calitro, and Pat Elsworth of City Hall and pleaded with them not to approve these catch basins which would go through Firehouse 23 and 206 Osborne properties. I called Kelly Green of City Hall Engineering Department and asked for her help. The only answer she gave me was that Mr. Hawley was installing backup drains which would never cause

flooding to my home. Mr. Hawley also called me and visited me and said there would be no problem because he was installing backup drains to the catch basins.

Mr. Hawley sent his Engineer to my home and I showed him the problems that I would have if all his catch basins were connected to Firehouse 23 through my land. Mr. Hawley called me personally and asked if I therefore, would give him permission to install his pipes and catch basins down through Lot No. 118 which I own on Springside Ave., and he would compensate me. I refused worried about Lot No. 118 losing value. That may have been a mistake on my part because Mr. Hawley received permission from the City of Danbury to hook up to the present Firehouse 23 pipes which proceeded to pass through the small pipes and catch basin on my property. I was defeated.

The VERY first flood after completion of the Medical Building was August 2, 2002 which flooded my entire basement.

I wrote a letter of documentation to Mayor Boughton, I. Hawley, Kelly Green, and D. Yamin documenting this flood, SEE ATTACHED.

In the past couple years, we have had drought, that is why I did not have flooding after the Medical Building construction until this July which is wet.

To add to the problems of water running through the pipes on my land, the City installed a new catch basin at the top of Osborne and Springside bringing water down to Springside Avenue, added tons of water to a drain where my pipes run into. It was a bad decision. The catch basin should have been connected to the Osborne Street pipes.

I was flooded July 1 , then July 6, and Firehouse 23 (thanks to them) helped me move furniture and rugs.

I called Richie Antous at the Mayor's Office and to Duke at Public Works. Duke, Ron, and Bob from Public Works (thanks to them) came and vacuumed out the catch basins at Firehouse 23 and sent a hose down 137 feet toward Springside Avenue to see if the pipes were open. They expressed a possible blockage where they would have to open a cover on Springside Avenue which was paved over with tar, and check to see if anything was blocked. Duke said someone would come on Monday July 11, and open this box and check. (Note: At the time of finishing this letter, I saw the City investigating the road on Springside Ave.)

HORROR AGAIN:

On July 18, 2005, my backyard was completely flooded twice in one day with a river-like situation. It was VERY FRIGHTENING. The catch basins flowed over and my entire backyard was a river running directly into my home with at least 8 inches of dirty, smelly water from the pipes. In 47 years I never saw flooding this bad, even after the hurricanes. I called 911 and 4 Volunteer Firemen came and helped me. After they left, within an hour it rained again and my basement flooded again. I had to call 911 a second time the same day with the same flooding situation.

If the above does not describe my pain and suffering, then please know that I am in pain with worry and also had to go to the hospital for Xrays from a sudden disc problem which I could hardly walk. Maybe it's from old age at 74 but I cannot keep cleaning my basement from silt and mud caused from too much pressure of water passing through the pipes on my land.

I desperately need the Common Council's help in looking into this problem and hope they can get the City

of Danbury to reconstruct the pipes and catch basin on my property making them bigger to fit water coming from Firehouse 23 and the Medical Building.

I called Pauline Basso who advised me to write to you and I sincerely know that Pauline and the Common Council will help me. Pauline is one person I can trust to get me help. I will accept any sympathy and action you can offer to me.

I would appreciate a response at your convenience.

So many advise me to sell and get out....No I won't sell a home I love and spent so much money on to retire to. I have the best neighbors in Danbury, Firehouse 23 and I thank them for helping me during the flood and to 911 who showed up July 18 two times and worked so hard to keep me from breaking down to tears.

We need to reconstruct the pipeline through my yard immediately.

**Sincerely,
Lila Joan Shaker
206 Osborne St.
Danbury, Ct. 06810
203-748-1422**

Attachments:

Previous letters sent to City

1. May 1, 2000 to Sharon Calitro, c.c. Pat Elsworth City Hall.

2. August 6, 2002 to Mayor Boughton, I. Hawley, Kelly Green, and D. Yamin

ATTACHMENTS

To Whom It May Concern: c.c. Mayor Boughton, I. Hawley, Kelly Green,
D. Yamin

Re: Overflow of Catch Basins at 206 Osborne St.

From: Lila Joan Shaker, 206 Osborne St. Danbury, Ct. 06810
203-74-81422

On August 2, 2002, the catch basins in my backyard (installed by the City of Danbury in the 80's) overflowed by a heavy thunder storm in the evening and flooded my basement. I have had no problems with flooding since 1982 when Mr. Garamella of the Public Works approved installation of a pipeline through my land (which I agreed to). Also building the new Firehouse 23 helped because they installed curbing. (Hurricanes of 11 inches of rain did not flood my basement.

HISTORY:

In the year 2000, Mr. Hawley started a new Medical Center and received approval from the City Engineering Dept. to connect several catch basins into the back of Firehouse 23. I was never asked if this would cause problems with the catch basin in my yard which of course, was connected to the Firehouse 23 drainage. I contacted Kelly Green, Mr. Hawley, and attended the City Hall meetings regards Hawley building, and expressed my deep concerns of the added water to be sent through my land. I was not against the building itself.

Mr. Hawley talked to me and told me there would be less water because he was putting in backup tanks to hold off the water. I was concerned of the amount of catch basins he was installing and that the entire area would be paved with tar which would cause more water to collect into the catch basins.

Kelly Green of the Engineering Department also told me the same story. She told me at least three times I would have no problem.

I expressed my concerns at a meeting in the City Hall in front of the Council and no one ever came to see what I was talking about. Never heard a word. My anxiety over the drains was constantly calmed by promises from Kelly Green and Mr. Hawley that I would not have any flooding. (I was not against the construction of the building; it is an improvement in the area) Mr. Hawley sent his Engineer to see me and the Engineer agreed that I had reason to be concerned. I took him across Osborne St. and showed him deep catch basins and told him to connect to them instead of through the back of the Firehouse and my land. The Engineer said he would talk to Mr. Hawley about it. But the pipes were installed the original plan through the Firehouse and my land.

Well, the first heavy downfall August 2, 2002, my home was flooded. The catch basins built with the approval of Superintendent Garamella overflowed as a result of the added water from the Hawley property.

I called Mr.Hawley 8-3-02 and he visited me and continued to say there should have been less water. I have lived almost 50 years at 206 Osborne, and know the land/water flow better than anyone. The addition of catch basins at Hawley Medical Center caused much more water through my land which resulted in my basement being flooded on August 2. The City of Dabury needs to review the pipes they installed in the 80's to see how we can correct this problem. This is a documented letter for future reference. I have a collection of photos and newspaper articles which prove that adding any more water to the drainage system in my area would be a big problem. I was ignored and now we will see what the future holds. You will hear from me if I am flooded again.

Sincerely,
Lila Joan Shaker
August 6, 2002

written May 1, 2000

Attention: Ms. Sharon Calitro c.c. Pat Elsworth

Re: Drains in back of 208 Osborne St. (Firehouse 23) and 206 Osborne St. Lila Shaker home.

About 3 weeks ago, Mr. Hawley stopped at my home and asked if I would sign a petition which would allow the building of a Medical Center on the Tennis Court near my home (owned by Bouquins). I did not sign the Petition until he promised he would not disturb or hook into the drain pipes going into my property. He said he would not bother the drains. I was happy to have a nice building near my home-The reason: "I have lived over the years with a terrible sight on the corner of Springside and Osborne, a Construction company (the other side of my home). I have had so many promises from the City that they would restrict their activities and nothing has worked. I live in horror with diesel smoke, noise of trucks dumping, bulldozers, oil barrels around, junk, etc. Wayne Skelly knows of this problem and yet it never has improved. I cannot let my health deteriorate with more tensions from Hawley's building Medical Center and runoff water.

History: My parents bought 206 Osborne St. in 1957 but progress goes on and the area has grown. It seems the few residents left have to suffer with the businesses that have built around us (the Firehouse is no problem)

I have worked with the city to put in sewers, lights, and constantly pleaded with Jack Swieitzer to open road drains in front of my home. My name was constantly in the newspapers trying to solve the flooding in my backyard and home. I complained about the water which flowed through my backyard and flooded my basement. Road water came in back of the Firehouse into my yard. I myself spent hundreds of dollars to keep away from my basement and it continued to be a problem.

I pleaded with the City (was in the newspapers in the 70's and 80's) to come and look at my problem. My basement under my home was constantly flooded with at least 2 ft. of water in heavy downpours and hurricanes. The city even lent me sandbags at one time which I had to lift and put in front of my garage door.

Thanks to Mr. Garamella, City Superintendent at that time, because he called me and said he was going to install new drains in my (in the 80's) backyard as long as I approved. I did and the City came in and for one week, installed new pipes and a small catchbasin in my backyard, and near my garage door.

This still did not work complete because the old Firehouse property caused me such problems because they were not hooked into the pipes properly and when it rained hard their rainwater ran over the bank into my yard causing erosion on the bank and mud flowing into my yard.

When the new Firehouse was built about 4 years ago, I was lucky. They reviewed

he drainage plans with me (Jack Murphy) and said they were putting a new pipe system with backup drains and curbing which would stop any water running from their property over the bank into my driveway. They would catch all the water into their pipe which was hooked into my pipe. I worried because my catchbasin was small, but nothing has happened so far.

he drain in my yard built by the City Public Works is small and really cannot take anymore pipes being hooked into it. (You need to review my drain pipes before Hawley hooks up). Then I would like a letter from Mr. Hawley and the city stating that there will be no problem.

signed Mr. Hawley's petition for the new Medical Center based on his word. That he was not going to disturb or hook into the pipes going through my yard. Then I happened to review the plans over Firehouse 23 and saw that Mr. Hawley intends to hook up a run off drain from the new Medical Center into the pipes that go in back of my home. I called Mr. Hawley (Irving) and told his secretary I cannot allow more water through those pipes as they are not big enough. He called me back and said I would never send more water through your yard; as a matter of fact I would be sending less. Being a woman who has worked with The Barden Corporation Engineers and top executives for 51 years, I will not believe until I see a promise in writing that I will not be flooded out.

Mr. Hawley visited my home Saturday April 29 and I showed him the drain in my yard and he constantly said I would never do anything to hurt your home and will not send more water which would cause you floods.

I need your promises that this extra water which would come from a large newly built Medical Center will not flood my home from too much water overflow in the drains Hawley intends to install. Please review this anxiety I have over the hookup of runoff water into the pipes going through the back of Firehouse 23 and my land.

I will attend the meeting May 3 at 8 p.m. which they will be discussing the building of this Medical Center. This letter stands for documentation that I am concerned and would like a written statement that there will be no problems.

Please realize my worry over the possibility of flooding, based on my experience in the past. Don't let a problem happen by approving this building without serious concern over the possibility of damage to my home from flooding.

Miss Lila Joan Shaker
106 Osborne St
Danbury, CT 06810
48-1422
May 1, 2000