



Keeping Watch Over Our Waters

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July 13, 2020

City Utilities Committee
Atlanta City Council
55 Trinity Ave. SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

RE: Letter of Support - Proposed Amendments to Atlanta's Post-Construction Stormwater Ordinance – 07/14/2020 Meeting

Dear Members of the City Utilities Committee,

Chattahoochee Riverkeeper ("CRK") is a nonprofit environmental advocacy organization with over 10,000 members whose mission is to protect the Chattahoochee River, its tributaries, and watershed. We have been involved in Atlanta's Post-Construction Stormwater Ordinance ("ordinance") through a number of revisions including the major modifications in 2013 and are very familiar with its requirements. The most recent proposed revisions to the ordinance will increase its effectiveness and will help to resolve many social, environmental and economic problems that are associated with post-construction stormwater runoff. We understand that these proposed amendments will be heard during tomorrow's City Utilities Committee meeting as we ask for your support.

Impervious surfaces such as roadways, rooftops, and parking lots prevent the natural flow of rainwater into the ground which leads to downstream flooding and pollution issues as the rainwater washes pathogens, nutrients, sediments, and heavy metals into nearby streams. Traditional stormwater infrastructure, such as large above ground detention ponds and underground storage vaults, do little to allow rain to soak into the ground and are often inadequate structures to protect downstream communities. Green Infrastructure includes practices that allow rainwater to naturally soak into ground — solving many of the pollution, flooding, and water supply problems associated with development.

Since 2013, the ordinance has promoted the use of Green Infrastructure in commercial and residential applications and has been extremely successful. In many cases, Green Infrastructure practices have been installed and maintained at lower costs than traditional stormwater controls. We salute the city for continuing this initiative to

incorporate these highly effective techniques into the ordinance including the most recent requirements for linear projects. In addition, the new requirements for extended detention for projects unable to utilize Green Infrastructure as well as for sites that use underground detention will further protect our river system. We are confident that these amendments to the ordinance will result in cleaner waterways, less flooding, improved property values, and a higher quality of life for Atlanta's citizens. I can be reached at 770-312-3855 or julseth@chattahoochee.org for any questions regarding this letter.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jason Ulseth
RIVERKEEPER
Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
www.chattahoochee.org