



# City of North Royalton

Mayor Cathy Luks

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TO: Laura Haller, Director of Legislative Services  
FROM: Mayor Cathy Luks  
DATE: March 25, 2005  
RE: Resolution No. 05-11

RECEIVED  
MAR 25 2005  
CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON  
COUNCIL OFFICE

I am exercising my veto authority on the above-referenced resolution. There are numerous issues of concern with the contents of the resolution.

First, there is the issue of priorities. Since the severe flooding occurrences of last spring, I along with each and every councilperson have stated openly in one way or another, especially to the victims of the flooding, that we will make solving the flooding problems our top priority. Much work has been underway with the Residents Flooding Oversight Committee and the Consultant hired by the City to identify the solutions to the flood prone areas. While that task is not completed, we already know that work will need to be done involving existing infrastructure, including the sanitary sewer system. We also know that it will require millions of dollars to fund these solutions; dollars we do not currently have.

To expend funds at this time to develop a plan to expand sewers in the southern part of the City is impractical at the very least, and irresponsible as it relates to the City's financial condition. Conservative estimates indicate that to accomplish what this resolution calls for would cost approximately \$16,000,000 and could not be entirely assessed. In other words some of that cost would have to be covered by the City, either through tax increases or increased sewer rates. To spend money to develop a plan for something we know we can't afford when we have tight budget constraints and more pressing priorities just doesn't make sense.

As to the failing septic systems in the City, the remedy to the problem exists through Board of Health enforcement to repair and upgrade those septic systems that are failing, thereby affording compliance to the Clean Water Act with least expense to the City.

Amending our 208 plan to reflect extending sewers when affordability issues have not been addressed places the City in jeopardy of not having Board of Health enforcement, not meeting the Clean Water Act regulations, and not being able to fund sewers. Such an act could be the impetus to yet another untimely and unaffordable EPA action against the City, with the potential of serious financial peril.

For all of these reasons, I hereby veto Resolution No. 05-11.

Sincerely,

  
Mayor Cathy Luks

CL/djt