



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

City Manager

City Council Regular Meeting Date: June 2, 2026

To: City Council
From: Dana A. Souza, City Manager
Oisin Dolley, City Engineer
Date: May 18, 2026

SUBJECT: Draft Discussion and First Reading of Ordinance 26-012 to establish regulations relating to Pool Discharge, Dewatering Construction Sites, and Illicit Discharge into the stormwater and sanitary sewer systems.

BACKGROUND: Following Hurricanes Ian, Helene, and Milton, the City received complaints related to the discharge of swimming pool water, and the dewatering of construction sites including the dewatering operations related to home elevation projects. These activities created increased risks of untreated or sediment-laden water being discharged into the City's stormwater system, and private property not associated with a project's operation.

To address these concerns during the ongoing State of Local Emergency, Mayoral Proclamations (Section 4) have continuously issued temporary restrictions for pool water discharge by prohibiting the dewatering of a pool or spa directly into a waterbody, into the City's stormwater system, or onto any third-party's property without the third party's consent is expressly prohibited. The Proclamation also requires that the speed of dewatering be at a rate slow enough to allow all water to percolate down through the owner's property on which the pool or spa is being dewatered and recommends the use of sorbent booms or socks to capture debris.

Ordinance 26-012 is intended to replace and permanently codify those temporary emergency measures while also establishing broader protections related to construction dewatering and illicit discharges into both the City's stormwater and sanitary sewer systems.

Summary Of Proposed Changes

1. Amendments to Chapter 30 – Stormwater and Environmental Protections

The ordinance adds Section 30-38 of the City Code to expand protections against unlawful discharges of swimming pools or spas previously established by emergency proclamation, including:

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- Discharge activities must remain contained on the property whenever possible;
 - Appropriate erosion and sediment controls such as filter bags or sediment socks must be utilized;
 - Discharge onto neighboring properties requires written consent; and
 - Direct discharge into canals, ponds, streams, or other waterbodies is prohibited.

Section 30-39 is amended to include:

- Addition of definitions for “dewatering,” “discharge,” “illegal connection” to clarify regulated activities.
- Establishment of a general prohibition against non-stormwater discharges into the City’s stormwater system unless specifically exempted or authorized by permit.
- Ties the discharge of swimming pools and spas back to Section 30-38.

2. Amendments to Chapter 70 – Sanitary Sewer Protections

The ordinance also amends Chapter 70 relating to the City’s sanitary sewer system by creating explicit illicit discharge prohibitions. Key provisions include:

- Addition of a formal definition of “illicit discharge” in Section 70-103.
- Creation of Section 70-86 prohibiting unauthorized discharges into the sanitary sewer system, including stormwater, groundwater, pool drainage, hazardous substances, and other materials that could damage or interfere with sewer infrastructure or treatment operations.
- Revision of Section 70-112 to remove temporary language anticipating future regulations and replace it with the newly codified illicit discharge standards.

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Discussion and direction.
2. Schedule Ordinance 26-012 for Second Reading and Public Hearing on June 16, 2026.

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