



700 West Liberty Street | Louisville, KY 40203-1911
Phone: 502.540.6000 | LouisvilleMSD.org

MEDIA RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Sheryl Lauder
Sheryl.Lauder@LouisvilleMSD.org
502.919.0325

MSD's 'cIAIRity' program to enhance odor management

*Public meeting about odor mitigation surrounding
Morris Forman Water Quality Treatment Center set for November 9*

LOUISVILLE, KY – Smell something? MSD wants the community to say something. So, a new initiative, MSD's **cIAIRity** Program, invites the community to report unpleasant odors from water quality treatment centers, pump stations and catch basins, as well as from creeks, streams and other bodies of water.

The community outreach is part of a multi-year planning effort to enhance MSD's odor mitigation efforts by identifying, cataloging and addressing sources of odors. MSD has a new website tool where residents can report odors and is hosting a series of public meetings to share information about MSD's efforts to reduce odor. The focus of the first public meeting is the community surrounding MSD's Morris Forman Water Quality Treatment Center. It will be held virtually on November 9, 2021, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on [MSD's YouTube channel](#).

"There's no doubt about it, odors are an inevitable and natural part of the management of sewer and wastewater utilities, and MSD is taking aggressive steps to minimize these impacts to the community," said Daymond Talley MSD's Operations Director of Treatment Facilities.

Sewer odor is caused by hydrogen sulfide, which forms when sewage and other materials decompose. Hot, dry weather can often increase these odors. Also, in many older parts of the community, catch basins were initially built without water traps (think of the curved drainpipe under a kitchen sink) that use water to stop sewer gas from escaping into the air.

MSD currently invests approximately \$2 million per year in odor-control measures, including chemical, biological and thermal oxidation technologies at treatment plants. In addition, MSD crews clean and flush approximately 19,000 catch basins across the community during an average year.

MSD's **cIAIRity** Program received a boost earlier this year when Congressman John Yarmuth announced a \$480,000 federal earmark to make sewer upgrades at 109 locations in the Park DuValle neighborhood, an

area with a high concentration of “untrapped” catch basins that can frequently emit odors. The funding comes as part of the FY22 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies bill.

“This provides a jumpstart to our clAIRity Program, and we are very appreciative of Congressman Yarmuth’s efforts to secure funding to improve the catch basin infrastructure in the Park DuValle area, which can go a long way to reducing sewer odors,” Talley said.

MSD engaged engineering consultant, AECOM, to assess each of its five water quality treatment centers around the community and to identify opportunities for improvements to the odor-reduction systems. The consultant’s recommendations will be included in a multi-year master plan that prioritizes strategic investments to be made in these systems in MSD’s future capital improvement budgets.

MSD’s website now features an online tool—louisvillemsd.org/odor—for the public to report odors for MSD to investigate. In addition, MSD is promoting the effort with a public service campaign on local media and social media. Talley said it’s essential for the public to report odors quickly after their observation and provide as much detail as possible, including specific location and time of day details.

“If we don’t know about an odor, we can’t address it. We must hear from the public as soon as possible when they notice an odor, so our team can work to identify the source and work to address it,” Talley said. “In the business of wastewater, you simply can’t eliminate every odor, but with the public’s help, we can better manage it.”

For more information about the public meeting or to report an odor, visit LouisvilleMSD.org/odor or call 502-540-6000.

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About MSD

The Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) works to achieve and maintain clean, environmentally safe waterways for a healthy and vibrant community. The organization’s more than 670 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro, and wastewater service in portions of Oldham County. In addition to operating and maintaining Louisville Metro’s sewer system, floodwall system, water quality treatment centers and flood pumping stations, MSD invests in hundreds of infrastructure improvement projects each year, plants more than 1,000 trees and other vegetation annually to enhance water filtration and reduce runoff, and provides numerous outreach programs to inform and educate the community about protecting our waterways.