

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNICATION
MAY 19, 2015 AGENDA**

Subject:	Action Required:	Approved By:
<p>An ordinance to change the name of the Little Rock Sanitary Sewer Committee to the Little Rock Water Reclamation Commission.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">√ Ordinance Resolution Approval Information Report</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bruce T. Moore City Manager</p>
SYNOPSIS	<p>When the City created a semi-autonomous sewer utility, it followed State Statute and chose the Sanitary Sewer Committee form of organization. As a result, the board the City appoints is known as the Little Rock Sanitary Sewer Committee. This ordinance recognizes the name of the entity as the Little Rock Water Reclamation Commission.</p>	
FISCAL IMPACT	<p>None. While there will be some minor costs in the transition for such things as stationery and signage, there is no significant expense involved.</p>	
RECOMMENDATION	<p>Approval of the resolution.</p>	
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION	<p>The Little Rock Sanitary Sewer Committee has had this matter under consideration for some period of time. In January 2015, a subcommittee was selected to formally explore the issue, and on April 22, 2015, the new name was chosen by resolution of the Committee.</p>	
BACKGROUND	<p>When the City chose decades ago to have a semi-autonomous body deal with the placement of sewers within the City, it utilized the provisions of State Law. The City could either create a Sanitary Committee, or a Sanitary Sewer Committee.</p>	

**BACKGROUND
CONTINUED**

The latter choice was made because of the authority such a committee would have to oversee wastewater disposal. Little Rock, Rev. Code § 35-103 (1988) refers to the Sanitary Sewer Committee, but really does not provide any name. State Statute does not mandate a name for the entity.

Since the creation of the Committee, the scope of its responsibility has been significantly changed by State and Federal Law. The Clean Water Act, among other Federal Laws, set stringent guidelines to not only assure that wastewater is removed from businesses and residences, but also that any discharge after removal meets carefully crafted state and federal regulations on water quality. In addition, the City is responsible to obtain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits, and to meet the standards set by such permits. These standards go beyond collection and discharge, but also deal with issues such as sanitary sewer overflows (SOS), and other matters. Through Federal litigation brought by the Sierra Club, and state administrative action by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) these standards are not only set, but stringently monitored. In addition, the City and the Committee have undertaken significant capital improvement obligations in order to maintain such a permit. Finally, there are some storm water requirements that the entity was meet in accordance with Federal and State Law.

In short, the Committee deals with a great deal more than just sanitary sewer issues. To reflect this increased authority, and to anticipate further changes in the role of the Committee, it was concluded that a more appropriate name is the Little Rock Water Reclamation Commission. In addition to the issues noted above, such a commission can also address additional requirements such as gray water use for certain purposes, and other Federal requirements that may be forthcoming. More to the point, the name reflects that the Committee is the arm of the City to address all aspects of waste water including collection, treatment, discharge, and rate structures.