



City Council Agenda Memo

Crest Hill, IL

Meeting Date:	November 17, 2025
Submitter:	Daniel Ritter, Community & Economic Development Director Don Seeman, Building Official
Department:	Community and Economic Development
Agenda Item:	Discussion and Direction on Creating a Cross Connection and Backflow Protection Ordinance

Summary:

For the City to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, the City of Crest Hill will require any structure, Business, or residential property with an RPZ device (Backflow Prevention) to have it inspected annually by a licensed plumber. An RPZ is designed to protect the public water supply by disposing of any backflowing water if any check valves or relief valves fail.

Work Session 11/10/25:

At the City Council Work Session, Wyatt Mach from CCRA Professional Services, the city's backflow consultant, further explained how the program protects the water supply and the general public in addition to meeting EPA and IEPA requirements. The proposed Ordinance gives the city the ability to enforce these requirements and produce an updated inventory regularly.

The last notice letter and survey appear to have been sent in 2021. However, the exact mailing and outreach efforts aren't known. Without the corresponding ordinance and requirements, participation in the program was limited. With the new ordinance drafted, it is anticipated that the program will be more effective and produce a better inventory.

The Cross-Connection and Backflow Protection Program in Illinois is one of several tools intended to protect water consumers in the state. Section 18 of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act (P.A. 89-445, eff. 2-7-96; 90-773, eff. 8-14-98) and 35 Ill. Adm. Code 607.104 provides the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) direction from both the Illinois legislature and the Illinois Pollution Control Board. These statutes establish that no person can threaten a water supply and that local water supply officials are responsible for protecting their water mains from connections that have the potential to allow the backflow of contaminants into their respective distribution

systems. Further, Title 35 of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's (IEPA) Administrative Code and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Title 77, Part 890, Illinois Plumbing Code, requires that all public water supplies be required to implement a backflow prevention program. The unfunded mandates require that all connections to a public water supply be the responsibility of the official custodian of the supply (in this case, the City of Crest Hill).

Recommended Council Action: Approval of an Ordinance approving a Cross Connection and Backflow Protection Program.

Attachments:

- A. Draft Cross Connection and Backflow Protection Ordinance