



*Where Life is Sweet*

Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**STAFF REPORT**  
For the Meeting of November 12, 2024

**Title/Subject**

Ordinance 2367: Fats, Oils, & Greases (FOG) Requirements

**Summary and Background**

This ordinance will implement requirements on commercial sewer users who have the likelihood, or ability, to discharge fats, oils, and/or greases (FOG) to the publicly owned sewer system.

FOG is a major problem for sewer systems, as anyone who knows you shouldn't pour bacon grease down your sink understands, because once the warm FOG hits the cold environment within the sewer mains, they solidify and begin to create blockages which end up causing damage and potential sewer overflows on the public streets or in to other homes elsewhere in the city.

This ordinance does a number of things, but most importantly, it:

- Requires commercial users likely to discharge FOG to obtain a permit through the City
- Requires those users to have a grease trap installed
- Requires maintenance of those grease traps
- Requires permitting within 60 days of code adoption
- Requires permittees to be compliant within 150 days of code adoption
  - o Or to have received a variance

**Permit Required**

It is anticipated that of the nearly 6,000 sewer customers, there will be approximately 60 to 80 customers who will be required to obtain a FOG permit. Generally, this includes establishments such as restaurants, supermarkets, gas stations, car washes, etc. Having a list of permitted FOG users will allow city staff to easily monitor compliance by ensuring proper maintenance of grease traps.

**Grease Trap Installed**

Depending on the user, these systems can be relatively simple low-cost under-sink systems to much larger exterior systems which may cost as much as \$5,000. As a result of requirements

by modern building codes for these types of uses, it is likely that the vast majority of potential permittees already have some form of grease trap installed, however, it is anticipated that a handful of customers may be required to install a system.

### Maintenance Required

Grease traps are very simple hydraulic systems which simply slow down the flow of water to allow FOG to congeal on-site before reaching the public's sewer mains. If these systems aren't maintained, by cleaning out the congealed FOG regularly, then the systems fail by simply allowing the FOG to flow over and out to the public's sewer mains. This code adds in penalties for users who do not regularly maintain their grease traps.

### Compliance Deadline & Variance Philosophy

This code allows five months for users to come in to compliance, which should be more than adequate for the majority of users. However, it is anticipated that a few users who don't already have a grease trap, may run in to some physical challenges associated with installation which will require more time to work through. It is staff's recommendation that in those instances, variances be liberally granted to allow for up to an additional 12 months to come in to compliance.

### Enforcement

This new requirement will be enforced by a new Public Works staff position, the Environmental Water Quality Specialist.

### Tie-In to Council Goals

Maintain existing systems.

### Fiscal Information

This new program will require FOG permittees to pay an additional flat fee of \$3.62 per month. With 60 to 80 permittees, this will generate \$2,600 to \$3,500 per year.

It is anticipated that the EWQS staff position will spend approximately 1/3 of their time implementing the FOG program, at an annual (fully-loaded) cost of \$47,000.

As a result of dedicating 2 sewer staff & equipment to cleaning "bad lines" for two weeks each month, the Sewer Department currently spends \$149,000 per year cleaning lines. It is anticipated that, once the FOG program is fully operational, the amount of cleaning may be reduced by 30%; resulting in a savings to the Sewer Department of \$44,000 per year.

Therefore, a FOG charge has been developed to recoup the remaining net-cost to the city from the users who are generating the FOG. The FOG charge will be adopted separately by resolution.

### Alternatives and Recommendation

#### Alternatives

1. Adopt Ordinance 2367
2. Reject Ordinance 2367

3. Request Amendments

Recommended Action/Motion

Motion to approve Ordinance 2367.

**Submitted By:**

Mark Morgan