To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to formally express my concern about recent drainage activity near my property at 401 Vale, particularly at the intersection of Bettis and Vale in Rollingwood. I am requesting that this letter be made part of the public record and shared with city council members and any committees addressing drainage infrastructure in this area.

On the evening of April 22, 2025, at approximately 7:20 PM, I backed out of our garage to head toward Vale. To my alarm, I encountered a large volume of water rapidly flowing down Bettis. It had been diverted from its normal flow pattern, and was running across the entire south side of the road, reaching our driveway. The water was so deep I feared it could enter the sedan I was driving. I accelerated to avoid the water, but could not clear it entirely until I passed through the Bettis-Vale intersection.

At the time, I assumed it was an unusual storm event. Later, I found that the City had conducted an unannounced drainage test just up the street. Long limestone rocks had been placed across the roadway in a way that diverted the natural water flow—water that had, for over 20 years, followed a consistent path—so that it now directed straight toward our driveway.

When we rebuilt our home, we preserved the original driveway on Bettis, which had been in place for over five decades, precisely because it had never experienced drainage problems. We understood how sensitive this area is and made decisions accordingly. Our home includes a basement level—the same basement that has existed at this location for over 70 years. A change in water flow that causes flooding at our property would result in severe and costly damage.

I am deeply concerned that this drainage experiment was carried out without notice to nearby homeowners, especially those like us who are directly downstream from the affected flow path. I have since learned that the city may be planning permanent drainage changes at this intersection. Despite being directly affected, I was never been contacted by the city or given the opportunity to provide input.

I request that the City of Rollingwood take the following actions:

- 1. **Formally notify nearby residents** of any planned drainage changes or tests, especially when they alter long-standing drainage paths in historically stable areas.
- 2. **Conduct a full engineering-based drainage impact study** before making any further modifications at Bettis and Vale, as is required for private homeowners when building or remodeling.

3. Ensure any changes made do not disproportionately burden individual properties like 401 Vale with runoff. Water should be distributed equitably, and the drainage design must protect—not endanger—existing homes.

Given the events of April 22 and the nature of the changes already tested, I must state clearly: if flooding occurs at our home due to changes in city drainage infrastructure—especially when that infrastructure has diverted runoff toward our property—the city will bear responsibility. Our home has never flooded in over 70 years under the existing footprint and driveway layout. Any flooding that results from newly altered water paths would be a direct consequence of those modifications.

Finally, I urge the city to recognize that the volume of water this area receives—from both Bettis and Vale—is substantial. Even modest redirection or channeling decisions can have significant consequences, not only for our home but for others further down Vale as well.

Thank you for your time and for your continued work on behalf of the City of Rollingwood. I look forward to being kept informed on this issue going forward.

Sincerely,
J. E. Hundley
401 Vale Street



