



## NOTICE TO PLUMBERS REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF SEWER SERVICE LATERALS

Regarding responsibility for repair and maintenance of sewer service laterals, Fulton County's Sewer Ordinance states *inter alia*:

### **Sec. 82-107. Definitions**

For the purposes of this article, the following words and terms are defined:

*Building sewer* or sewer service lateral means the extension from the building drain to the public (County) sewer.

### **Sec. 82-195. Sewer Service Laterals (Building Sewers) and connections**

*(c) Responsibility for installation and maintenance costs.* All costs and expense incidental to the installation and connection of the building sewer or sewer service lateral shall be borne by the owner. The building sewers or sewer service laterals up to the connection to the public sewer are the responsibility of the property owner and are not part of the sewerage system operated and maintained by the County. If there is a cleanout installed on the service lateral at the edge of the public right-of-way or County easement, under emergency conditions where public health or safety may be jeopardized, the County may assist property owners, at the owner's expense, with maintaining that portion of the service lateral between the County sewer and the cleanout. Repairs to the service lateral within the public right-of-way or County easement shall be undertaken by the County or an approved contractor and the cost shall be borne by the owner. In no way does the maintenance or repair assistance by the County exercise dominion or control of the sewer service lateral.

If the service line is blocked, the property owner will have the responsibility of removing the blockage, even if the blockage is located within a public road right-of-way (ROW) or within a sewer easement.

The Fulton County Board of Commissioners (BOC) approved County staff involvement for a fee and the circumstances in which County staff may assist or execute work on sewer service laterals.

The County will assist in removing a blockage within the ROW or easement under the following conditions:

1. There is a serious threat to public health if the problem is not resolved as a matter of urgency and;
2. A private plumbing professional engaged by the property owner is present and;
3. The property owner signs a release holding the County harmless against any damage that may occur while the County is assisting the owner's plumbing professional.

For repairs and installation of cleanouts within the ROW or County easement:

1. Only the County or a contractor approved by the County is authorized to install cleanouts or repair sewer service laterals within the ROW or County easement.
2. The cost of installation/repairs undertaken on the sewer service lateral within the ROW or easement must be borne by the property owner.
3. The property owner will be required to pay the stipulated fee before any repair work is undertaken by the County.
4. Under no circumstances will the County repair sewer service laterals outside the ROW or easement.

For information on fees and general questions on this policy, please contact the following:

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