

From: Sara Botach

Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2017 12:09 AM

To: Jeff Gale

Cc: Morales, Jimmy; Gelber, Dan; Samuelian, Mark; Gongora, Michael; Rosen Gonzalez, Kristen; Arriola, Ricky; Aleman, John; Steinberg, Micky; Kelly Gale; Coley, Roy; Carpenter, Eric; Mowry, Bruce; Soto, Luis; gf18

Subject: Re: Flooding on 44th Street

Hello my name is Sara Wachtel and my address is [address] Royal palm avenue and my son and his wife [names] live next door to me at [address] post avenue with their 4 kids TG . I have emailed you before about the flooding situation in front of our houses and have called the water department sometimes everyday. After the Jewish new year is the Jewish holiday called sukkoth where you build a small hut at your house. And you buy an estrog and lulav to take to temple. When the holiday of sukkoth started we could NOT leave our homes to go to temple. The water was so high can you imagine a weekday and you can't walk out of your home? My grandchildren were looking forward to walking because we don't drive on the holiday to the JLC CHABAD HOUSE on 41st street to meet up with their friends and my son couldn't leave his home to pray? I walked home the previous Friday nite from my moms house at [address] prairie avenue with my grandchildren with water higher than my ankles. It was disgusting. The water doesn't go down. Cars have gotten stuck in front of my house. My daughter was parked at my house and her car filled up with water from the rain because the street FLOODS. The water doesn't go down and I can't drive home from work to my house when the street is flooded. A real estate friend told me before she buys a house she drives by the house when it is raining to see if the street floods. I have lived in my house for 30 years and it is the same. It's enough already please. Why should I be afraid for it to rain? Our street needs help NOW. I know that you hear a lot of complaints about a lot of different things but didn't you all take your jobs to help?

THANK YOU FOR READING THIS. Sara Wachtel

Sent from my iPad

From: Jeffrey Gale

Date: August 1, 2017 at 9:05:06 PM EDT

To: "Levine, Philip" <PhilipLevine@miamibeachfl.gov>

Cc: "Steinberg, Micky" <MickySteinberg@miamibeachfl.gov>, "Grieco, Michael" <MichaelGrieco@miamibeachfl.gov>, "Malakoff, Joy" <JoyMalakoff@miamibeachfl.gov>

Subject: Street Flooding -- 44th Street & Royal Palm Avenue

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Commissioners,

This is where I live, [address] Royal Palm Ave. The photos were taken at 8:00 pm this evening, three hours after the rain stopped. The water flooded my garage and this car. Tomorrow I will be reporting the damage to my homeowners and car insurance companies. I'm not happy.

Studies have shown this corner and the one due east (on 44th Street) to be low lying and problematic. The city paid \$800,000+ some seven years ago, at my urging, to remedy this problem with limited success ... obviously.

A pump station is needed in Muss Park to pull water from the pipes that service this area. Are there any plans in the works to remedy this problem once and for all?

Yours truly,

Jeff Gale

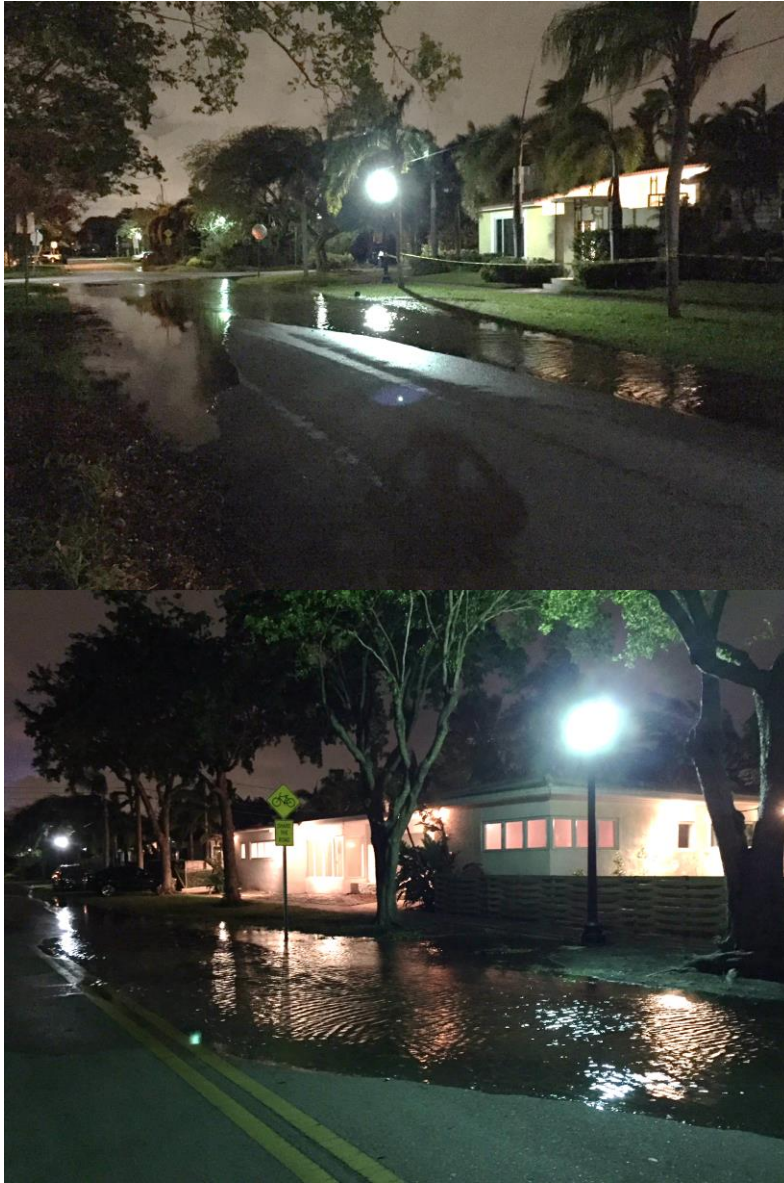
[Signature]



From: Jeffrey Gale <>
Date: October 3, 2017 at 9:05:06 PM EDT
To: JohnAleman@miamibeachfl.gov>
Cc: Coley, Roy; Carpenter, Eric; (Kelly Gale)

10-3-2017. The solution to this flooding is simple. It is not right that we have to wait years for the remedy.

Jeff Gale



Jeff Gale
[Signature]

From: Jeffrey Gale
Date: October 3, 2017 at 9:05:06 PM EDT
To: Carpenter, Eric
Cc: JohnAleman@miamibeachfl.gov; ICE (Kelly Gale)

Dear Mr. Carpenter,

We greatly appreciate the efforts made today by you and your crew to provide some relief from the acute flooding on 44th Street. Unfortunately, the flooding this evening is as bad as ever. (These photographs were taken this evening at 9:45 pm.)

What next?

Thank you.

Yours truly,



On Oct 5, 2017, at 8:31 AM, Jeffrey Gale < > wrote:

Dear Mr. Carpenter:

Photos taken this morning between 8 and 8:15. Notice that the flooding is concentrated on 44th Street between Royal Palm Avenue and Post Avenue. High and dry east and west, especially east towards Sheridan and Pine Tree.

We park our cars up to avoid flood damage. We lost one car due to flooding -- declared a total loss by the insurance company -- while we were at work during TS Emily. Sandbags for the garage and front door.

This is a disaster. I was hoping to see a city crew at the end of the street this morning.

Yours truly,



Jeff Gale
[Signature]

From: Jeffrey Gale

Date: November 28, 2017 at 4:55 AM EDT

To: Carpenter, Eric <EricCarpenter@miamibeachfl.gov>; Coley, Roy <RoyColey@miamibeachfl.gov>; Aleman, John <JohnAleman@miamibeachfl.gov>; (Kelly Gale) <>; Mowry, Bruce <BruceMowry@miamibeachfl.gov>; Payne, Stanley <StanleyPayne@miamibeachfl.gov>

Cc:

Ya'll have tried to be helpful and your efforts are much appreciated, but this flooding — it's a lake! — is more of the same.

Are there any other short term solutions?

Thank you.



Jeff Gale
[Signature]

From: Jeffrey Gale

Date: December 17, 2017 at 2:21 PM EDT

To: Coley, Roy <RoyColey@miamibeachfl.gov>; Aleman, John <JohnAleman@miamibeachfl.gov>; Carpenter, Eric <EricCarpenter@miamibeachfl.gov>; ICE (Kelly Gale) <kellyegale@yahoo.com>; Mowry, Bruce <BruceMowry@miamibeachfl.gov>; Payne, Stanley <StanleyPayne@miamibeachfl.gov>; Morales, Jimmy <JimmyMorales@miamibeachfl.gov>; Soto, Luis <LuisSoto@miamibeachfl.gov>; Gershon Fink; Sara Botach
Cc:

I do not accept the city's explanation for removing a proven protection against rain flooding. It is unreasonable to expect us to patiently wait for a permanent fix while our homes and property remain vulnerable to rain-related flood damage.

The King Tide was not a factor in any of these photographs. They are all rain events (that's an umbrella in the first photo and my flooded car, eventually accepted as a total by State Farm, in the third).

Since a temporary remedy is available, this should never happen again.

Jeff Gale



From: Jeff Gale

Sent: Friday, December 22, 2017 4:41 PM

To: Gelber, Dan <DanGelber@miamibeachfl.gov>; Samuelian, Mark <Mark@miamibeachfl.gov>; Gongora, Michael <Michael@miamibeachfl.gov>; Rosen Gonzalez, Kristen <Kristen@miamibeachfl.gov>; Arriola, Ricky <RickyArriola@miamibeachfl.gov>; Aleman, John <JohnAleman@miamibeachfl.gov>; Steinberg, Micky <MickySteinberg@miamibeachfl.gov>

Cc: Morales, Jimmy <JimmyMorales@miamibeachfl.gov>; KellyGale; Coley, Roy <RoyColey@miamibeachfl.gov>; Carpenter, Eric <EricCarpenter@miamibeachfl.gov>; Mowry, Bruce <BruceMowry@miamibeachfl.gov>; Soto, Luis <LuisSoto@miamibeachfl.gov>; gf18; sara botach

Subject: Flooding on 44th Street

Dear Mr. Mayor and Honorable City Commissioners:

My family and I have resided in our beautiful dream home at [address] Royal Palm Avenue since 1993. I am also a Miami Beach native, born in Mt. Sinai Hospital. Unfortunately, because of the unresolved flooding on 44th Street, my wife and I are giving serious thought to selling our home to move to higher ground. Easier said than done for numerous reasons, not the least of which is that the flooding diminishes the resale value of our home. We are angry, disappointed, and frustrated.

I have been dealing with the city on this issue for some ten years. It started with me sending flood photographs to the city commissioners following a heavy rain. Then commissioner Saul Gross picked up the cause. He invited me to attend a sub-committee meeting to address the issue. When I walked into the meeting room, he had one of my photographs, which showed my wife standing in knee deep water on the corner of 44th Street and Royal Palm, enlarged and displayed on an easel for everyone to see. It made the point, and some 2-3 years later the City Commission approved a project to replace the existing drainage pipes with much wider pipes running the entire length of 44th Street from Royal Palm to Muss Park. The crew hired for the project was excellent, banging it out in record time. To our great disappointment, the new system did not remedy the problem.

Flooding on 44th Street remains an acute problem for these reasons:

1. **Street elevation.** From Royal Palm Avenue West to Prairie Avenue, but especially between Royal Palm and Post Avenue, 44th Street sits at a significantly lower elevation than the surrounding areas. Naturally, this causes the water from the surrounding streets and avenues to funnel down to the lower section.
2. **Sea level rise.** The drainage system was designed to drain into a "French Drain" (exfiltration trench), and into the bay by gravity. Due to sea level rise, it does not work as intended, and is actually artesian at times with ground water flowing in reverse.
3. **Tide level (King Tide).** Due to the artesian effect and the low street level, when the tidal elevations exceed the levels of our drain inlets, ground water flows upwards, into the street. The pooled water does not retreat until the tide recedes. This can take hours. Any rainfall compounds the problem.
4. **Tide level (Normal tide).** It is not just the King Tide that poses a hazard. Because the area is low lying, even during normal tides the water level is just below ground level. This causes the drains on 44th Street to quickly overflow within minutes during any moderate to heavy rain. This situation is complicated by the drain outlet into the canal behind Muss Park being submerged during medium to high tides, blocking the rain water from draining into the canal. Here, again, drainage is dependent on the tides. **Flash flooding is the greatest threat.**

No matter the tide level -- King Tide or normal low, high, or medium tide -- the drainage system on 44th Street backs up within minutes during moderate to heavy rainstorms, causing pooling that threatens home and property and that can take hours to abate. Our garage has flooded numerous times, water has come within feet of entering our home through the front door, cars have been flooded (just this past August 1, 2017, we lost a car to flooding -- see pictures. Liberty Mutual, our vehicle insurance carrier, accepted the Prius as a total loss), and we've given up on trying to maintain green grass in our front yard.

SOLUTIONS:

Temporary pumps. During this year's fall King Tide, the city installed temporary pumps at Muss Park. The pumps prevented the outflow of water into the street, and during flooding from a recent rainstorm, the water was quickly removed (within 15 minutes -- I saw this happen with my own eyes at 4 a.m.) rather than the usual 2-3 hour drainage time. Unfortunately, the city removed the pumps last week. This is the reason for our anger and

frustration. A heavy rain can strike at any time and as certain as the sun will rise in the east, there will be flooding. With enough rain, there will be property damage. Even without property damage, pooled water in the street harms property values and is a health hazard.

Permanent pumps. Better than temporary pumps.

Raising street levels/Permanent pumps. Needs to be done!

You will see in some of my photos what I mean about this area lying lower than the surrounding areas. 44th Street immediately East of Royal Palm Avenue does not flood. While the area from the intersection of Royal Palm West to Prairie can be swamped under 10 inches of pooled water, the area on 44th Street East of Royal Palm Avenue will be devoid of pooled water. The streets North and South of 44th Street also do not flood.

The city was attentive to our concerns during the recent King Tides. The temporary pumps worked wonderfully. However, we are dismayed by its decision to remove the pumps after King Tide season. For years, I and other residents have told the city that the greatest hazard on 44th Street is rain-related flash flooding. Without the temporary pumps in place, there is nothing to prevent this hazard. I have 24+ years of experience with the issue. Without the pumps, THERE WILL BE FLOODING. When is enough enough?

Happy Holidays.

Yours truly,

Jeff Gale
[Signature]

[Duplicate Pictures Attached]