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One Step Closer to Completing Long Term Control Plan; Buffalo Sewer Authority Gets Green Light to Issue Bonds

The Buffalo Sewer Authority is one step closer to completing its Long Term Control Plan thanks to their partners in government

BUFFALO, NY – The Buffalo Sewer Authority (BSA) is one step closer to completing its Long Term Control Plan, thanks to its partners in government. Today the General Manager of Buffalo Sewer, Oluwole “OJ” McFoy, thanked the elected officials who made it possible for Buffalo Sewer to financially complete its control plan. By signing into law Buffalo Sewer’s new bonding authority, the state has increased BSA’s credit for the first time in 43 years.

“I would like to thank Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Mayor Byron W. Brown, Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes, and State Senator Tim Kennedy for all of their support in ensuring that this piece of legislation became law. I am grateful to have partners in government who care deeply about the continued success of Buffalo Sewer’s efforts to protect the health of our residents and our Great Lakes waterways from water pollution,” said McFoy.

In 2014, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) approved Buffalo Sewer’s Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan. Over the next 20 years, Buffalo Sewer will be implementing the Long Term Control Plan which includes the capital improvement projects necessary to comply with the Administrative Order and the Clean Water Act.

“I’m pleased that Buffalo Sewer gets to continue its efforts to tackle Buffalo’s Stormwater Challenge and proud to have lent my support on this piece of legislation. This increased bonding capacity will allow our city to construct multi-million dollar capital improvement projects to eliminate the effects of sewer overflows on our local waterways and be better positioned to protect public health,” said Mayor Byron W. Brown.

“As one of the older cities in the United States, our infrastructure continues to age rapidly, especially our stormwater and sewer systems that we don’t see. I’m proud to have partnered with Senator Kennedy to pass legislation to raise the Buffalo Sewer Authority’s bonding capacity, and also thank Governor Cuomo for signing this into law. This will allow the city to plan long term, making strategic investments and repairs to make our system more efficient and effective, reducing stormwater runoff and improving ecosystem and conservation efforts,” state Assemblywoman Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes.

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SEWER AUTHORITY

“By investing in and improving our water infrastructure systems, we’re protecting Western New York’s waterways and taking critical steps towards remediation efforts,” said Senator Tim Kennedy. “I am pleased to see the Governor has signed the bill Assemblymember Crystal Peoples-Stokes and I sponsored, which supports the Buffalo Sewer Authority’s long-term plan to address sewer overflows. With Mayor Brown’s partnership, I’m confident that the city will continue to see investment in green infrastructure and preservation of our watershed for years to come.”

In addition to Buffalo Sewer’s Capital Projects, the BSA partnered with Mayor Byron W. Brown in 2015 to create Rain Check Buffalo to help solve water quality concerns. Rain Check 1.0 focused on the city’s stormwater challenge and the unique role green infrastructure plays in addressing it. To date, BSA has installed over 100 acres of green infrastructure solutions, resulting in nearly one billion gallons of captured stormwater. During the second phase, Buffalo Sewer is looking to find opportunities to work with a wide range of partners, from residents to large institutions, to scale up their work and expand the types of projects they take on. For more information on the Rain Check program, visit raincheckbuffalo.org.

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