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Cathy B. Bailey, Director, Greater Cincinnati Water Works
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Theft of Public Infrastructure

CINCINNATI – With the recent increase in recycling and scrap metal value, the theft of public infrastructure composed of metallic components is on the rise. The Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) and the Stormwater Management Utility (SMU), a Division of Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW), are experiencing an increase in theft of everything from storm inlets and manhole covers to fencing, railings, and castings.

Indications at recent sites of theft point to the use of backhoes for the removal of larger castings, lids and inlets. “Stormwater inlet grates are being stolen with surprising frequency, despite the fact they weigh about 150 pounds and are only worth a few dollars as scrap metal,” said Eric Saylor, City Stormwater Engineer.

The infrastructure is not only valuable to the utilities in terms of function, but also in terms of public safety. Inlets protect streets and property from flooding, and manhole lids cover access points into the sewers. “We do not want anyone or anything to be hurt or damaged because of the missing infrastructure,” said Mr. Saylor.

SMU, GCWW and MSD are Asking for Your Help!

Various locations across the city are being impacted. The situation is being investigated by local authorities and contractors are being warned to safeguard job sites. Additionally, local scrapyards should not accept any of these materials. The utilities are also asking the public to assist. **Please** report anything that may seem suspicious and alert the Cincinnati Police Department if you see heavy machinery being used outside of normal business hours.

Contact Information:

City of Cincinnati Police Department:
Non-Emergencies: (513) 765-1212
Crime Stoppers: (513) 352-3040

SMU: (513) 591-5050

MSD: (513) 352-4900

GCWW: (513) 591-7700