



## **BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLY TESTING AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM**

Many businesses and homeowners have backflow prevention assemblies (BPA's) installed either at their service connection (at the water meter) and/or within their building or home. These assemblies are installed to help protect the quality of water in the public water system by preventing the backflow of potentially contaminated water through cross connections. Per City Ordinance, Article VIII Cross-Connection Control/Backflow Prevention, Florida Regulations and Plumbing Codes, BPA's must be performance tested on an annual basis to ensure they are working properly to protect the public water supply.

Since 2013, responsibility for maintenance and testing of BPA's has been the owner's responsibility. However, under the current system, the City has not been successful in achieving a level of compliance that ensures the public water supply is protected and safe for drinking. Consequently, the City's Department of Environmental and Engineering Services (DEES) is embarking on a program to assist property owners to readily comply with the requirements for Cross-Connection Control/Backflow Prevention.

**Effective August 1, 2021**, the City of Margate is implementing a ***BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLY TESTING AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM*** to assist businesses and homeowners test these BPA's. We have had many favorable comments about this new program. We have also had a few questions about the program that we would like to address with this memo. For your convenience here is a brief overview of the program:

### **HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS**

The City of Margate has hired Hydro Corp, Inc. to review and qualify BPA testing contractors, and assign BPA testing work through a selection process to certified, licensed, and insured, and experienced contractors. **The testing fees will be paid for by the City of Margate and billed to the property annually on the water bill . Also, the contractor will immediately process all test forms and paperwork directly.**

If your BPA requires repair or replacement due to a failed test or damage, the contractor will provide you with a Notice that will contain a list of contractors who can complete the necessary work. You will choose who will repair your valve. The costs for the repair and installation services have also been competitively bid through our program manager, HydroCorp. You may also choose to find your own licensed plumber, or you may contact our program manager to assist you with finding a qualified firm to perform the repairs. Note that the home/business owner is responsible for fees related to the repair or replacement of BPA's and will pay the contractor directly for such services. **Any BPA's that have failed must be repaired and retested within 30 days of the testing revealing the need for such repairs.**

All the BPA testing will be coordinated through our program manager, Hydro Corp, Inc. **If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Amy at HydroCorp, Inc. at 1-844-493-7660 or 248-672-2153 (cell).**

Thank you for your support and cooperation on this important issue. Please provide us with any feedback. We value your input.