

June 5, 2006

**Statement from Mayor Carty Finkbeiner
Responding to Comments Made by Councilman Michael Ashford Regarding
Flooding in the City of Toledo**

In the hours following the flood on Sunday Councilman Ashford stated that:

1. The City would provide \$2,000 grants to residents to help pay for flood damage, and;
2. blamed the mayor for failing to settle a lawsuit filed 16 years ago.

The City can not pay for damage caused by flooded basements. It will pay 80 percent of the costs, up to \$2,000 for residents to make improvements to their home to prevent future flooding such as flap valve installation or standpipe installation.

The Consent Decree between the City of Toledo and the U.S. E.P.A. has very little to do with rainwater drainage. This was a settlement of a lawsuit filed by the E.P.A. in 1991 to reduce the amount of raw sewage discharged into the Maumee River. How he linked the two is beyond me since he is the Chairman of the Public Utilities Committee and ought to have a better understanding of the program.

Mr. Ashford was engaged in political gamesmanship and election year politics at the expense of suffering citizens and the city administration.

Up until my final day as mayor in 2001, I fought hard on behalf of the City of Toledo to get council to approve the consent decree and the contract with Black and Veatch to

make the improvements to the city's sewage treatment system. However, City Council refused to move. Instead, they opted to defer the decision to voters and it was not until December of 2002 before the Consent Decree was signed.

I'll let Councilman Ashford work on fixing blame to further his political career. I'll continue to work on fixing the problem for the citizens of Toledo.