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# News Release

## Surveyors going door-to-door in Brad Meek, Hillside Additions

*Residents asked to participate in survey as part of a grant to redo water lines*

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (September 12, 2019) — Starting Friday, residents living in Brad Meek and Hillside Additions will be visited by personnel administering an income survey to help replace water lines.

Four surveyors — two consultants and two City employees, all wearing name badges — will be going door-to-door in these two neighborhoods, starting at 8:30 a.m. Sept. 13. Surveying will occur only between 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays, until the necessary number of surveys has been gathered.

Participation in this effort will help the city to possibly receive grant funding that would allow for the replacement of most water lines in these two neighborhoods, without the use of local property tax dollars.

"We are confident in the City's chances to receive up to \$600,000 in grant funding to help pay for this long-needed project," said City Manager Nick Hernandez, "but we need the help of Brad Meek and Hillside Addition residents to make it possible. Your cooperation is critical in order to achieve this grant."

Brad Meek and Hillside Addition residents who do not wish to talk to the surveyors at their door may instead download the income survey from the City website or at <http://bit.ly/bradmeeksurvey>.

Residents are asked to complete this one-page survey honestly and return it to the Utility Billing Office at City Hall, 118 W. Central Ave., by **5 p.m. Sept. 20**. Any information provided will be held in the strictest confidence. Names and addresses will not be connected with the surveys themselves.

The target area is west of North F Street, between Highland Drive and East Osage Avenue. Its western boundary consists of North Summit Street from Osage to Virginia Avenues, then Random Road and Highland Drive. (*Please see accompanying map to determine if your home lies within this area.*)

Residents who do **not** live in this target area **should not** download, complete or return the survey.

"Without this data, our grant application will not be eligible for funding in 2019," Hernandez said.

**For immediate release**

*more*

The City of Arkansas City is applying for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the Kansas Department of Commerce in order to replace water lines in Brad Meek and Hillside Additions.

The water lines are approximately 70 years old and mostly made of cast iron. The City has received numerous complaints of red water and water main breaks in these neighborhoods in recent years.

The Brad Meek and Hillside Additions Water Line Replacement Project includes replacing existing water lines (mostly 4- and 6-inch diameter) with 6- and 8-inch water lines, improving fire protection.

In addition, new fire hydrants, water valves and service connections will be replaced due to the increase in the size of the water lines. The total project cost will be \$1,494,070. The CDBG grant request is for the maximum of \$600,000, with the remaining portion to be paid by the City from its Water Fund.

“The City of Arkansas City thanks all Brad Meek and Hillside residents for their willingness to participate in this important survey and contribute to the City’s future growth,” Hernandez said.

### **Survey instructions**

Surveys of rental properties should be filled out by the tenant, not the landlord.

The income level that is being asked for is the adjusted gross income, as defined by how income is reported on the Internal Revenue Service’s Form 1040.

Residents do not have to disclose their actual income. Rather, they are asked to indicate where their income falls within a range of incomes, based on the number of people in their families.

Family demographics are another part of the survey. There are allowances on the form for homes that have more than one family occupying them.

The form also asks for racial identification, whether the head of the household is female and if there are any disabled persons in the home. All of these factors can affect the City’s overall grant status.

Please fill out the survey in blue ink, if possible. Completed surveys may be returned to a box in the Utility Billing Office at City Hall. Ranson will collect them and compile the results.

Only the final aggregate numbers will be presented to the City Commission.

If you have any questions or need assistance in completing the survey, call senior consultant Rose Mary Saunders at (316) 264-3400 or Public Information Officer Andrew Lawson at (620) 441-4415.

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