



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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## MWRD, Sister City leaders from Kyiv, Ukraine exchange water wisdom

City Council members from Kyiv, Ukraine met with leaders from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) to impart and share knowledge about protecting valuable water resources in their respective hometowns around the globe.

MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos and MWRD Acting Executive Director John Murray and staff engaged with four Kyiv City Council deputies, who were hosted by Chicago Sister Cities International (CSCI), an initiative of World Business Chicago. The visit to the MWRD headquarters was part of a busy tour of Chicago government agencies and organizations for the delegation of Ukrainian leaders.

“We are proud to share our expertise and vision for clean water and environmental protection with our partners in Kyiv, Ukraine,” said MWRD Mariyana Spyropoulos. “It’s clear from our interaction that the City Council members we met with share in many of the same values of protecting the public health, protecting our water environment, managing stormwater and the recovery of renewable resources. We applaud these Kyiv leaders for making the long journey to meet with us and their efforts to improve the health of our planet.”

No stranger to water resource issues, Kyiv is home to the Dnieper River, which flows through the city, dividing it into the Right Bank and Left Bank areas. Kyiv, one of 28 international cities that Chicago partners with through CSCI, is the largest city and capital of Ukraine. It is an economic, education and cultural center of the country holding major influence in Eastern Europe. Kyiv was represented on the visit to the MWRD by City Council Deputies Yurii Syrotiuk, Oleh Helevey, Nataliia Maslova, and Olesya Pynzenyk, along with Yuriy Figel, of CSCI.

“During our delegation’s visit to Chicago we had the opportunity to receive valuable information on healthcare, environmental protection, city management and gender equality issues in Chicago and the United States. We want to thank Chicago Sister Cities International, as well as Vera Eliashevsky and Yuriy Figel from the Kyiv Committee of CSCI, for their excel-



From L to R: Kyiv City Council Deputy Yurii Syrotiuk, member of Standing Committee on Law Compliance, Order and Prevention of Corruption; Kyiv City Council Deputy Oleh Helevey, head of Standing Committee on Health and Social Protection; Kyiv City Council Deputy Nataliia Maslova, deputy head of Standing Committee on Regulation; MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos; Kyiv City Council Deputy Olesya Pynzenyk, member of Standing Committee on Ecological Policy; Chicago Sister Cities Representative Yuriy Figel; and MWRD Acting Executive Director John Murray.

lent organization of our visit and great support throughout,” said Kyiv City Council Deputy Nataliia Maslova, deputy head of Standing Committee on Regulation. “This type of exchange between Chicago and Kyiv is more important now than ever, as Kyiv currently faces many issues which Chicago has successfully resolved in recent years. We learned much during our visit, and have plans to move forward with joint projects in healthcare and gender equality issues that will be beneficial for the both sides. We look forward to continuing the strong relationship between Kyiv and Chicago.”

An innovative world leader in water transformation and resource recovery, the MWRD is home to one of the world’s largest wastewater treatment plants, two of the world’s largest combined sewage reservoirs, the world’s largest wastewater treatment UV disinfection facility, the world’s largest nutrient recovery facility and is responsible for reversing the flow of the Chicago River and the famed Tunnel and Reservoir Plan, which is emulated throughout the world to mitigate flooding and protect area waterways.

### Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD ([www.mwrdd.org](http://www.mwrdd.org)) is an award winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.