



Hennepin County **Memo**

NOTICE RE: WINTERIZING GOVERNMENT CENTER IRRIGATION SYSTEM AND CONSOLIDATION OF POSSESSIONS ON NORTH PLAZA--NOVEMBER 4

On Friday, November 4, 2011, Hennepin County will winterize the irrigation system at the Government Center, which involves shutting down the water outside and blowing out the lines that supply water to the sprinkler heads.

WINTERIZATION

What will happen?

Water will be expelled from the sprinkler heads one zone at a time followed by a misting as the residual water is expelled from the system. The following areas will be affected:

- North Plaza planters - both on the plaza and adjacent to the building.
- North Plaza grassy areas
- South Plaza - grassy area in the center and plantings along the perimeter

Note: Hennepin County staff will work with individuals from Occupy MN to make sure items in the affected areas are moved before this work is performed. This work will begin on Friday, November 4 at 7:00 am and, therefore, possessions must be moved in advance. Unattended items will be removed and stored.

How long will this work take?

This work will take most of the day (7:00 am - 3:30 pm).

Will there be water available outside once this is done?

No outside water access will be available once the system is winterized.

Additional outside maintenance, including sanding of pavers, will also be scheduled during the next few weeks. Occupy MN will be notified in advance.

CONSOLIDATION

After the winterization of the Government Center on November 4, 2011, Hennepin County will work with Occupy MN to consolidate the location of their possessions. The occupation of the North Plaza has gone on for about 25 days. During this time Occupy MN has been allowed to use the entire North Plaza and leave items unattended on the plaza. As part of the winterization, Occupy MN will need to consolidate their possessions and reduce the size of their occupation on the North Plaza to a designated area on the east or west side of the North Plaza (Hennepin County staff will work with Occupy MN to select the site for this storage). Individuals will continue to have access to the entire North Plaza; however, the possessions will need to be kept in a designated area. In addition, at least one individual must be

present in this designated area so that items are never left unattended. Unattended items will be removed and stored.

In addition, during the day (7:00 am. to 4:30 pm.) there can be no unattended possessions on the grounds. Specifically, all sleeping materials used must be picked up and stored under the tarp on the South Plaza or in the designated area on the North Plaza. The number of portable toilets will be reduced to three.

Also, beginning this Friday, any and all signs or posters not placed by county personnel will be removed. No further taping or otherwise adhering of signs to the property will be permitted.

FUTURE

Finally, as the temperatures fall and/or it begins to snow, it will become necessary that Occupy MN make further modifications to their occupation of the Government Center plaza in order to ensure personal safety and allow for snow shoveling, snow plowing, snow removal and snow storage. Once the first significant snowfall or severe temperatures are predicted and the temperature falls below twenty-five degrees, no sleeping will be allowed on the Government Center plazas between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am. At that time, all portable toilets will need to be removed and the canopy will come down.