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For Immediate Release

North Miami - Cross Connection Control (Backflow Preventer) Notice

North Miami, FL - June 14, 2013 – The City of North Miami has elected to move forward with an eco-friendly online cross connection control (backflow preventer) tracking program. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) requires every water supplier to develop and implement a comprehensive cross connection control program for the elimination of existing cross connections and prevention or protection from all future cross connections.

Cross connections are sometimes protected by a valve called a backflow preventer. Backflow preventers are the property of the water customer and the responsibility lies with the customer for required annual testing and maintenance. The water customer must contract with a certified tester to perform the required annual tests. Repairs or installations should be performed by a licensed contractor. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI NO LONGER PROVIDES THIS SERVICE. There are costs associated with testing and maintaining backflow preventers and the costs are the responsibility of the water customer. Most plumbing contractors are now certified to test and repair backflow preventers.

Commercial Customers: Backflow preventers may be found at any number of locations on your water systems. Typically, commercial & industrial customers will have backflow preventers just after the water meter and also on wet fire protection systems. They may also have lawn irrigation systems, boilers, chillers, or other water connections throughout their facilities that require backflow protection.

Residential Customers: Backflow preventers may be found on lawn irrigation systems, wet fire protection systems, hot water heating (boiler) systems, swimming pool fills, water features, etc. Backflow preventers may also be required if there is another water source on the site such as a well, pond, river, re-claimed or re-use water, etc.

Lawn Sprinklers: Plumbing Code requires that your backflow preventer be tested when the backflow preventer is installed, repaired, re-installed, or at the system's annual start-up every season.

The contractor hired to implement and oversee North Miami's backflow program is Aqua Backflow. They specialize in cross connection control management. If you have or require backflow protection, you may be notified by Aqua Backflow for compliance (testing, repairs,



installations, inspections, or surveys). Aqua Backflow can be reached toll-free at 866-777-2124 with any questions. The North Miami Water Department can be reached at 305-895-9838.

North Miami's Cross Connection Control Program is designed to safeguard public health. Your cooperation with our program is not only required by code, but is also greatly appreciated. Requests for compliance, enforcement, and for information may come from Aqua Backflow or City staff. Prompt responses or actions are requested of you. ***Let's keep our water safe!***

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