

City To Train Citizens To Operate Trucks, Earn CDL

City of Akron Press Release

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Akron, Ohio (September 26, 2013) – Mayor Don Plusquellic announced today that the City will be creating new positions in its Public Service Department for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Equipment Operators, and training interested residents. This is the first new position created as a result of constructing the new CSO tunnels needed to overhaul the City's combined sewer overflow system.

"If there is a bright spot in this whole unfunded, yet mandated, Combined Sewer Overflow project, it is that our residents can be trained and employed to do some of the work necessary to complete the project," said Mayor Plusquellic. "I have worked for years to make sure more of our residents get the job opportunities on our local projects, including lobbying our school board to set higher requirements for local hiring and increasing the bonus points for residency for our own City jobs. In the places it makes sense, we can train or work with contractors and labor groups to help train, and provide more opportunities to hire our residents to do the work. We have certainly made the effort to do so for a number of years."

The City plans to have two classes of 24 resident/students each (48 total) to train to become CDL licensed CSO Equipment Operators. The training will come at no cost to those completing the classes so long as each participant works for the City Akron for at least 90 days during the year following training. If a resident completes the training, but decides not to work for the City, he/she will have to pay back the training costs. Some of the qualifying individuals selected to participate in the training classes may also be tapped to provide temporary/seasonal work prior to the CSO projects commencing next year. An outside contractor will be providing the Commercial Driver License training needed for the position, using City equipment.

Residents are encouraged to sign up for the free training classes. Potential candidates must meet minimum requirements prior to training. The application for these training classes will be available early next week at the Community Learning Centers, the Akron Urban League, and online at www.akronohio.gov. Applications will be collected for two weeks and can be turned in at the CLC's and the Akron Urban League. The official job description for CSO Equipment Operator is:

COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW EQUIPMENT OPERATOR (Special Project)

DEFINITION

This is skilled work in the operation of moderately complex automotive and trucking equipment in construction and related maintenance activities for the City of Akron's Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Special Project.

An employee in this class drives trucks and operates equipment requiring specialized skill in manipulating controls and attachments and/or in maneuvering for safe and efficient special purpose operation. When not operating CSO construction related equipment, employee performs snow removal activity and other duties within the Public Service Department.

Works under general supervision on routine or repetitive assignments and under close supervision on special or unusual assignments.

CHARACTERISTIC WORK

Operates a variety of light and heavy trucks to transport people, equipment and materials. Hauls heavy equipment on truck with trailer. Operates front end loader for a variety of purposes such as loading materials onto trucks. Drives trucks and loads and unloads various types of materials on and off trucks or other types of construction equipment. Operates salt spreader and heavy trucks with plow attachments for snow removal and ice control purposes. Operates more complex equipment for short periods or in emergencies. When not operating CSO or snow removal equipment, participates in workcrew activity. Performs other related work as required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Successful completion of a City sponsored CDL Training Program. Possession of a valid Class A State of Ohio commercial driver's license (CDL).

Knowledge of and skill in the effective and safe operation of moderately complex automotive, trucking and heavy equipment in traffic, inclement weather and in and around work crew areas. Knowledge of the component parts of such equipment, the performance limits, and the preventative maintenance necessary to keep equipment in satisfactory operation. Ability to read and write and to understand and follow oral and written instructions. Ability to perform a variety of laboring tasks. Ability to work in adverse weather conditions.

The new position will be permanent positions within the Public Service Department once the special CSO projects commence, and will continue so long as CSO funding is available.

“Even if the CSO funding eventually runs out, those already trained will have earned their CDL and will be eligible to take other city jobs. They may use their new skills to be employed with private companies, but it still will benefit our residents,” noted Mayor Plusquellic.