

Resources to fight government mandates to install backflow valves

<http://www.suncitydave.info/webpage-1.htm> – lots of info

<http://www.suncitydave.info/webpage-2.htm>

<http://www.suncitydave.info/webpage-3.htm>

<http://www.suncitydave.info/webpage-4.htm>

<http://www.suncitydave.info/webpage-5.htm>

<http://backflowvideos.org/videos-old-index.html> – has videos and the newsletters.

<http://suncitydave.info/backflow-interim.htm> – sort of a summary of points.

Ordinances often mandate that the valves are to be located on a homeowner's private property. These valves are not for the protection of individual homeowners, but rather the general public, like a stop sign, or traffic light. As such, they **must** be on public property and maintained by the County. The County cannot force a homeowner to just give up the use of even a square inch of their property for a backflow valve. The counties must respect Due Process and Takings clauses, i.e., "private property [shall not] be taken for public use, without just compensation."

Note the 5th Amendment which applies to federal takings and Section 1 of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which extends the takings clause to states.

Google "Florida Takings Clause" for a lot of background.

Florida Constitution – Section 9

A government cannot force a person to violate the law. For example: It is wrong to force the installation of backflow valves that violate a number of anti-terrorism laws, because they provide terrorists with direct access to what is required by the Federal and State Clean Water Acts to be a community's safe drinking water supply. I just don't understand why the Department of Homeland Security hasn't banned backflow valves with test ports, such as RP, RPZ and Double-Check valves, nationwide!

And just for your very own private information: This is a video that I don't make readily available on my websites because it involves backflow valves and shows a very easy way to contaminate a whole community's or military base's drinking water supply: <http://www.backflowvideos.org/video70H.wmv>

And for dessert: <http://suncitydave.info/dicecco.htm>

What You Can Do To Fight City Hall!

First of all, approach the fight with the attitude that backflow valves are a scam and that most of the bureaucrats who advocate for backflow valves are probably accepting “public service bonuses” (otherwise known as kickbacks) from the plumbing industry and valve manufacturers. After all, other than for money, why would public servants ever advocate for a device that violates anti-terrorism laws, violates “due process” clauses, provides terrorists with direct access into the community’s drinking water supply, imposes needless costs on homeowners and is the solution to a problem that doesn’t exist?

Personally commit to becoming an advocate, also known as an activist or gadfly! Understand that it will require time and effort on your part.

Stick to just the one task of getting rid of the above the ground valves on residential properties. When I first started this, I asked the President of the Florida Chamber of Commerce if he would like to get involved on behalf of his membership. He wasn't - so I only did my work on behalf of homeowners - not his businesses.

If your County has a backflow board, try to get on it. I did this! Be an irritant. They hate my guts because I oppose the plumbing interests.

Choose just one target person (probably the County's Backflow Manager?) to direct your activities at - and mention his name often (particularly when addressing your County Commissioners) and cc him on all communications going to other officials. (And always mention his name whenever you speak. Public servants hate to have their name mentioned.) Unknown to you, he will circulate your concerns to other county people. I found out later that Hillsborough County actually appointed a person to coordinate the fight against me. I was able to get our County's Backflow Manager (who had been a plumber and was still very cozy with the plumbing industry) transferred to another job. He was planning to retire several years ago. The Commissioners declared a moratorium on backflow inspections. If he was taking a "public service bonus" from the plumbing industry, it stopped that - and he is still working. I can't prove he was getting kickbacks, but ... Check out <http://suncitydave.info/dicecco.htm>

Become familiar with Chapter 119 of the Florida Constitution. This is the Public Records Act. On the federal level it's referred to as the Freedom of Information Act - FOIA. But at the state level and for your purposes, it is the Florida Public Records Act that you'll be using. Use the Act to request the documentation for all backflow incidents and all emails for the past ten years concerning backflow valves. No one has ever died in Florida from a backflow incident. Also request records of sickness caused by backflow incidents from your County and State Health Departments. But remember to always carbon your key target person. Make him dread to get communications from you.

Attend and speak at your County Commissioner meetings. Write exactly what you're going to say. Time your speech to be less than the allotted speaking time for citizens so that you aren't hurried. Save handouts until the end or else the Commissioners will read your handout instead of listening to you. Always try to have some "show and tell" like a valve, wad of money, U.S. Constitution, etc. During your

speech, always pose questions for your target guy or the legal department to answer so that the ball is always in their court.

Get the local media involved. Provide them with an abundance of information to make their work easier. Do their work for them. And provide them with the names and addresses of government officials that they can approach. Editors require their reporters to quote at least two sources. Most public servants shun the attention that reporters bring to bear on a story of injustice – so make it easy for the reporter to find them. I was blessed by a reporter who took up the cause.

Get your County Commissioner to arrange a Townhall meeting with the water officials and their lawyer present. Make sure that a good part of the program will be set aside for the audience to ask questions – not just for a presentation by the County. Plant questions for the audience to ask or even hand out a list of questions which the water officials are sure to get a copy of which asks the really tough questions. Encourage your inner circle of friends to boo bad answers. Make them squirm!

After you've been at this for a while, make a Public Records request for emails to find out what the officials think of you and to maybe get some "smoking guns". I did this and it turned out to be very fruitful. See www.suncitydave.info/Statements of Government Officials.pdf

Backflow valves on private property violate the Due Process clause of the Florida Constitution. The valves do not protect you - but rather protect the general public, like a stop sign does. As such, they **must** be on public property and maintained by the County.

The valves also violate a number of state and federal terrorism laws and also the state and federal Clean Water Acts because they provide direct access to the utility's main water supply by terrorists. A number of federal anti-terrorism laws, like the Bioterrorism Act, the Patriot Act and the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act, prohibit infrastructure devices that provide direct access to the public drinking water supply by a terrorist.

Feel free to call me, preferably after noon, if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Please keep in touch. Let me know how you do!

Dave

David Brown
1805 Burlington Circle
Sun City Center, FL 33573-5219

Phone: (813) 634-6048
Email: dbrown28@tampabay.rr.com
Homepage: www.suncitydave.info