



CITY OF FLINT

Dayne Walling
Mayor

September 14, 2015

The Honorable Rick Snyder
Governor, State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Call for Additional Support for Flint Water Improvement Plan

Dear Governor Snyder:

On behalf of the Flint community, I am writing with a renewed request for additional support to address Flint's water challenges to ensure that water is affordable and secure for everyone in Flint especially our vulnerable populations. I am asking for an additional \$30 million in funds for Flint's infrastructure and a new healthy homes initiative.

Significant progress has been made throughout this year to increase water safety and quality and I thank you for the involvement of your office, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the Michigan Department of Treasury. A majority of items in the Water Improvement Plan are completed or underway. Most importantly, Flint is now in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act due in large part to the installation of the new carbon filter. The infrastructure systems are being made more secure and efficient through the State grants. Now the City is committed to following the recommendation of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to optimize the treatment process, reduce corrosion and further minimize risks from lead.

The need to accelerate the City's capital improvement investments remains and has been further increased by the continued financial stress and legal issues. Previously I requested support for replacement or forgiveness of payment to the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund due to Flint's status as a distressed community and the gap in funding in the adopted capital improvement plan. I understand that the existing federal law does not allow the existing Drinking Water Revolving Loans that Flint is carrying to be forgiven in retrospect but the need still exists. Flint owes approximately \$20 Million. One solution is for the State to grant a new \$20 Million that is designed as forgivable from the start. Another solution is to provide

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equivalent funding through an expansion of the grant program to Michigan's Financially Distressed Cities, Villages and Townships with a supplemental budget amendment in cooperation with the State Legislature.

The community's heightened concern about lead leeching into the water from old service lines and home plumbing also needs to be addressed. We know that lead is an environmental contaminant and there have been many programs in place over the years to address sources in paint and pipes. Flint needs a new healthy homes initiative specifically focused on lead in water with \$10 Million to start the process of replacing service lines for the most vulnerable households. Regardless of the source and treatment of Flint's water, this long term threat of lead in pipes needs to be removed in the interest of public health.

My approach continues to be to work with you and your appointed officials, State Senator Ananich, State Representatives Phelps and Neeley, Congressman Kildee, community groups, businesses, churches, foundations, the Flint City Council, and all of the City of Flint and State and Federal government personnel. We need every available expert and resource to address Flint's water problems.

Flint's safety is my top priority. Just as the City and State have worked together on public safety, we need additional support for fixing the water problems. We need \$30 Million in new funds to repair and update the city-wide infrastructure and to assist households in becoming lead-free. The entire Flint community deserves sustainable, safe, secure and affordable water now and into the future. Thank you for the consideration Governor and I look forward to future discussions.

Sincerely,



Dayne Walling
Mayor, City of Flint

CC: Flint City Council President Joshua Freeman; Congressman Dan Kildee; State Senator Jim Ananich; State Representative Sheldon Neeley; State Representative Phil Phelps; EPA Regional Administrator Dr. Susan Hedman; Chief of Staff Dennis Muchmore



CITY OF FLINT

Dayne Walling
Mayor

January 18, 2015

The Honorable Rick Snyder
Governor, State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Flint Water Improvement Plan

Dear Governor Snyder:

On behalf of the Flint community, I am writing to convey serious concerns about water quality and to request your support for my proposed Flint Water Improvement Plan. Access to safe and clean water is a basic human right, and, therefore, policy and budget decisions need to ensure that water is affordable and secure for everyone in Flint and all across Michigan. It is essential there is City, State and Federal cooperation to address the challenges here and to meet the needs of vulnerable populations.

The Flint Water Improvement Plan is focused in five areas: safety, quality, access, investment and education. The plan puts safety and quality first because this is fundamental. It is designed to be a sustainable solution for the City of Flint and the community as we move towards a new permanent water supply from Lake Huron through the Karegnondi Water Authority. My plan offers new ideas and also builds on successful models of utility, energy and assistance programs at the State and Federal levels.

Safety & Quality

- 100% Safety is the standard
- City of Flint reports testing data to the public to assure safety and expands testing sites and frequency
- Bring on experienced river water treatment operational management in the City of Flint

Access

- Announce an amnesty program for Flint water service turn-ons and reduce the turn-on fee
- Develop a revised affordable payment plan policy to encourage customers to return
- Design Federal and State partnership to establish new Drinking Water Emergency Assistance Fund for the elderly and vulnerable families

Investment

- Accelerate water system improvements outlined in the City of Flint Capital Improvement Plan through Federal and State Investments
 - State approves City of Flint's Distressed Cities Fund applications

- Federal and State support for replacement or forgiveness of payment to the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund due to Flint's status as a distressed community
- Federal and State grants for infrastructure improvements in alignment with the Flint Master Plan
- City Water Department implements budgeted FY15 projects including leak detection, valve repairs, new pipes and meter replacements

Education

- Develop a community partnership with universities to provide household and business customers with information on testing and conservation
- Ongoing partnership with Michigan Department of Human Services, United Way, Salvation Army and community organizations to provide information and water assistance with the Keep the Water Flowing Fund and support services
- Expand youth energy initiative to assist households with conservation and efficiency (piloted in summer 2014 with Northwestern High School students, EcoWorks and Consumers Energy)

It is also critical to restore the public confidence in Flint Water. The implementation of this plan must be accompanied by extensive community engagement including local elected officials. My objective is to work with you and your appointed officials, State Senator Ananich, State Representatives Phelps and Neeley, Congressman Kildee, community groups, businesses, churches, foundations, the Flint City Council, and all of the City of Flint and government personnel.

It is imperative that we communicate better and provide residents more information. I understand representatives from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will be joining a public forum this week at City Hall. This engagement going forward is vital so thank you for supporting their efforts. I think this issue of transparency is important for communities all across the State. I recommend a review of the applicable laws and policies and, at a minimum, a new requirement that water testing data be reported publicly no less than quarterly by law in all Michigan communities in Flint's population category.

Thank you for the consideration Governor. There is nothing more important in Flint right now than fixing the water problems. We must work together to identify funds to repair and update the water treatment facilities and city-wide infrastructure and to help those persons without access to clean water so that the entire Flint community has sustainable, safe, secure and affordable water now and into the future. This is an important issue for the state of our State of Michigan and I urge you to work with us to implement solutions.

Sincerely,



Dayne Walling, Mayor
City of Flint

CC: Flint City Council President Joshua Freeman; Congressman Dan Kildee; State Senator Jim Ananich; State Representative Sheldon Neeley; State Representative Phil Phelps; Flint Emergency Manager Jerry Ambrose