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Per Neighborhood Association Requests, Jersey City to Proactively Test Drinking Water Supply for Contaminants Using Independent, Third Party Consultant

Testing Currently Done by Suez Jersey City, However, Following Crisis in Flint Michigan, City to Hire Independent Consultant to Ensure Extra Level of Security

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Steven M. Fulop and the Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA) announced today that the MUA will hire an independent, third-party consultant to test the city’s drinking water supply to ensure drinking water levels are safe and accurate based on current testing done by Suez Jersey City.

The independent testing, which has an allocated budget of \$50,000, will include all contaminants listed on both the federal and state drinking water standards lists, which includes lead and copper amongst others. Currently, these tests are conducted by Suez Jersey City at frequencies mandated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The testing will also include 30 additional chemicals which require specialized tests and are not mandated by the EPA and DEP, but will be included as an added precaution.

“The situation in Flint is one that no community should have to experience and while testing is done routinely on the Jersey City water supply residents have reached out asking for comprehensive testing and we thought it was a prudent expense to add an extra level of security for our residents, especially our young children,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “I want to thank the DCNA and the concerned residents at last week’s meeting for suggesting this measure as it will give us the peace of mind that we all want following the crisis in Flint. There is no dollar amount that can be put on one’s health.”

The testing was requested at the Ward “E” town hall meeting by residents of the DCNA neighborhood association.

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The MUA will accept proposals this week and following the proposals, the MUA will enter into contract and begin testing, which is expected to take three to four weeks.

The Flint water crisis began in April 2014, after the City of Flint changed its water source from treated Detroit Water and Sewerage Department water (sourced from Lake Huron as well as the Detroit River) to the Flint River. As a result, between 6,000 and 12,000 children have severely high levels of lead in their blood streams and have experienced a range of serious health problems, including potential damage to their developing brains and nervous systems.

The crisis in Flint was compounded by the delayed response by authorities to address the situation after they were first made aware nearly two years ago.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Steven M. Fulop at jenniferm@jcnj.org or 201-376-0699.////