
From: Murray, David (GOV)
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 3:56 PM
To: Snyder, PPI Ajen, Jarrod (GOV); Holland, Meegan (GOV)
Subject: REVIEW, please -- Draft Flint Water Task Force response
Attachments: 2 DRAFT Task Force response.pdf

Good afternoon, Governor,

Here is a draft response, pasted below and attached, to the letter from the Flint Water Task Force, incorporating suggestions from Rich and others. Please let me know if you want changes, and we'll prepare a version on letterhead.

Thank you for your time.

Dave

Dear Flint Water Advisory Task Force Members,

Thank you for your correspondence on Dec. 7, and, most importantly, for your hard work to promote public health and protect our residents as we move forward. Your efforts are both respected and appreciated.

As acknowledged in your letter, we have taken many steps to address the challenges in Flint as they relate to reducing lead exposure. I am pleased to see the progress since October, and recognize there is more work that must be done to ensure that this progress continues.

At the state level, there has been a confluence of efforts between Michigan Departments of Environmental Quality and Health and Human Services to coordinate with the Genesee County Health Department, local schools, and our partners in the non-profit community.

These partners are making progress, and we know we must always strive to improve practices and communication for continual improvement.

You make a solid suggestion about establishing a person who is independent of any one of the involved state agencies to serve as the point person to coordinate the ongoing work. I am recommending that Harvey Hollins, director of the Office of Urban Initiatives, carry out this effort. Harvey is well-versed in the issues and the challenges faced by our cities and will be effective in this role. Senior members of our executive team will continue to engage with your task force and provide direction and support to Harvey to ensure you will have continued support and cooperation. We also have retained Chris DeWitt, a veteran communications specialist, to strengthen community outreach efforts to make sure residents have access to the information they need.

I also support your suggestion of a dashboard to make information about our work and progress more accessible to the Flint community. These are critical measures that can be used as we look the challenges and progress in Flint, but also can be a part of efforts moving forward in other areas of our state. It's important that people have confidence that we are working to address any problems and will take the necessary actions to improve interaction among city, state and federal agencies. We also will continue to work with the medical community to consider how we can work together on wraparound needs of children who might experience health problems.

People in Flint and across our state deserve safe, clean water. I want them to be confident that the water coming out of their tap is safe for their families. And I want them to trust that their government – at all levels – is working effectively to protect them.

I thank you again for investing your time and expertise in this vitally important effort.

Dave Murray

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