
From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 11:33 AM
To: Murray, David (GOV)
Subject: RE: request for comment

The governor believes everyone in Michigan deserves clean, safe drinking water. It is why Michigan has a great team of professionals at the DEQ to oversee municipal drinking water operators around the state and make sure they comply with state and federal drinking water standards. And it is worth noting that, today, the city's drinking water system is producing water that meets state and federal standards.

More alarming than the councilman's incendiary and inaccurate remarks is the underexamined fact that the city has failed to properly maintain its drinking water system for the past 40 years, and the impact of that system-wide neglect is starting to show in ways big and small. When the city council votes to return to Detroit as a water supply, it makes a strong statement: they are committed to continuing to spend money they don't have while continuing to ignore the real problem – simple maintenance of the pipelines.

For its part, The State of Michigan will continue working with city leaders to establish a schedule for necessary fixes and long-term solutions that align with Flint's major needs and available dollars. The problem with the city's water supply did not happen overnight, and a real fix won't happen overnight, either.

I think my RPA is in my other sportcoat. Going to look for it now. ...
b

From: Murray, David (GOV)
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 11:20 AM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Subject: RE: request for comment

I've been going back and forth with Ron this morning, asking if every Facebook post is now considered news and whether he will actually include a definition of what genocide is to people will know what he's actually accusing us of. He needs to start holding people accountable for their actions, rather than just cutting and pasting from Facebook.

That said, here's my RPA response, trying to point out that this is a long-standing city problem, and we are helping. I definitely don't want to go point for point with these guys. Think this works?

It's unfortunate that the councilman used such inflammatory rhetoric. The governor believes Flint residents need and deserve safe, clean water. The state continues working with city leaders to help with their water infrastructure challenges, which were years in the making. That assistance includes \$2 million in grants to help with leaks and other issues, which will allow the city to prioritize its repairs and help residents more quickly.

From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 11:14 AM
To: Murray, David (GOV)
Subject: Re: request for comment

Still working through the near-literacy of the post itself, and laughing too hard to be meaningfully offended by the myriad factual errors and brazen political grab.

Notice the new media trend? Someone says something ridiculous, dumb or just inflammatory and it gets not only covered in the news pages but also the editorial department?? Ron is a good reporter who just sent you a note saying a group of journalism professionals met this morning and decided, consciously, to make news out of a flatly nutty Facebook post.
That is how I quit laughing at this.

Let me know if you need fact bullets or something. I'll do whatever you need done.
Thanks,
b

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 6, 2015, at 9:50 AM, Murray, David (GOV) <MurrayD1@michigan.gov> wrote:

Hi Brad,

Just wanted you to see this. Incredible. I'll answer with our usual line about the state working with city leaders as the city works through its infrastructure problems, mentioning the grant and other things we've been doing.

From: Ronald Fonger [<mailto:RFONGER1@mlive.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 9:22 AM
To: Murray, David (GOV)
Subject: request for comment

Hey Dave:

Just came out of our morning meeting and we've decided to write about the most recent Facebook comments of Flint Councilman Wantwaz Davis (who is also a candidate for mayor).

The comments are similar to those made last month by the president of the Michigan chapter of Al Sharpton's National Action Network, who said Flint water is "almost as bad as gas chambers for Jews." (We spoke out against those comments editorially after covering it as a news story)

Here is Davis' unedited comment, which includes his contention that the governor and emergency manager are "creating an obvious genocide against the residents of Flint."

Thanks,