



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

For Immediate Release
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Statement by Trenton Mayor Eric E. Jackson Regarding the Trenton Water Works

I want to clarify the status of the Trenton Water Works (TWW), and debunk the highly-charged rhetoric and misinformation being circulated by individuals and news outlets with no technical background or knowledge.

First, let me be clear, TWW has operated according to state and federal standards, supplying water to its customers that either meets or exceeds federal standards. There have been some temporary operational issues, but the water quality and the public's health was never in danger, and we addressed each issue as we normally do, expeditiously, professionally, in concert with our high-quality contract consultants, and with the engagement of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) every step of the way.

For many months now, my administration has been communicating, holding meetings, and advising principals, including outgoing Commissioner Bob Martin and his staff at the NJDEP since the agency shared its concerns with us of the need to correct staffing and other issues at the TWW.

Here are the facts: First, as Mayor of the City, and in line with our resident's direction, under no circumstances will I allow the State of New Jersey, nor any special interest groups, force us to sell or privatize our utility for personal or other political gain.

Second, when advisories are issued, we follow procedures and language set forth by NJDEP, which includes notifying our customers and members of the public using standard methods, including robocalls, social media, and the city's website. We will continue to follow this process.

Third, we are contracting with a water management company with the expertise and know-how to run the water filtration plant. This expertise will be available to us immediately.

Fourth, we have been deliberate and thorough in our vetting of companies, and ensured to do so within the bounds of the State's procurement law, and the public interest.

Fifth, we will continue to advise and accept input from the NJDEP, a regulatory body of Trenton Water Works, about our comprehensive effort to modernize Trenton Water Works operations for our current base of customers and for future generations.

Sixth, as on December 27, 2017, I will continue to meet with the mayors and the county executive to keep them fully informed of the status of our water system.

Finally, again, let me reaffirm that I will not allow the sale or privatization of our utility, causing loss of revenue and employment for city residents, while at the same time ensuring that we operate TWW at its highest level.