WARWICK
WATER DIVISION

MEMO

To: Members of the Warwick City Council

From: Daniel O'Rourke, Chief of Water Division

Date: October 2, 2017

Pursuant to PCO-8-14 Sub A, the Water Division is pleased to present the following report specific to items referenced in the resolution.

1. The latest round of lead and copper sampling for the Main System (PWS#1615627) and Potowomut System (PWS#1900051) found both to be in compliance with the federal lead and copper rule. Those residences which were above the action level of 0.015 per million have been notified about the possible effects of lead in drinking water and ways to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water (see attached template).
2. The Water Division continues a systematic program of evaluating and monitoring existing fire hydrants with particular emphasis on school facilities, elderly housing and nursing homes. It is particularly important to make sure hydrants drain properly to prevent ice build-up.
3. The Water Division has been investing extensive time and effort evaluating the possibility of reactivating a 16" connection in the northern end of the city, near the City of Cranston which can be utilized as a back-up and/or emergency connection with the Providence Water Supply

Board. It is imperative that either new or discontinued interconnections be utilized in order to make a major investment in needed repairs on our 42" Natick transmission main which would be out of service.

4. Leak detection performed by our employees continue to be done in close con junction with the most recent Department of Public Works paving project.

If you have any questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Cc: Bruce Keiser- Mayor's Office
Janine Burke- Warwick Sewer Authority
Rick Crenca- Division of Public Works

Dear [Consumer's Name],
[Insert name of your water system] appreciates your participation in the lead tap monitoring program. A lead level of [insert data from the laboratory analysis of the sample collected-make sure the value is in pbb] was reported for the sample collected on [date] at your location, [insert address of customer].

Your result, as well as the 90th percentile value for our water system, **[is/is not]** below the lead action level of 15 parts per billion. **[Change this sentence to reflect the actual result of your system's monitoring.]**

What Does This Mean?
Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set the action level for lead in drinking water at 15 ppb. This means utilities must ensure that water from the customer's tap does not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the homes sampled (90th percentile value). The action level is *the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.* If water from the tap does exceed this limit, then the utility must take certain steps to correct the problem. Because lead may pose serious health risks, the EPA set a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) of zero for lead. The MCLG is *the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.*

What Are The Health Effects of Lead?
Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. Exposure to lead is a significant health concern, especially for young children and infants whose growing bodies tend to absorb more lead than the average adult. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

What Are The Sources of Lead?
The primary sources of lead exposure for most children are lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust, and lead-contaminated residential soil. Lead is found in older plumbing materials, some toys, some playground equipment, some children's metal jewelry, and some traditional pottery.

What Can I Do To Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water?
Although your test results were below EPA's action level, you may still want to take steps to further reduce your exposure.

- Run your water to flush out lead. If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15-30 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.
- Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.
- Do not boil water to remove lead.
- Look for alternative sources or treatment of water (such as bottled water or water filters).
- Re-test your water for lead periodically.
- Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead.

For More Information
Call us at [insert your water system's phone number]. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at *www.epa.gov/lead*, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.