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Newburyport City Council
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport City Hall
Newburyport, MA 01950

To the Members of the Newburyport City Council:

I am a resident of the City of Newburyport and am submitting this communication to share with you my concerns regarding the quality of Newburyport's drinking water. Specifically, Newburyport has PFAS in its drinking water, high levels of tri-halo-methanes and high levels of halo-acetic acids, amongst other contaminants.

Massachusetts Sierra Club has published a report detailing 261 public water systems in Massachusetts. Between 2016-2021, Newburyport was tested for six PFAS chemicals and five out of the six chemicals were detected at a total amount of 112 parts per trillion. The DEP limit is 20 parts per trillion.

In comparison, Amesbury tested for 18 chemicals. Six were detected with a total of 4 parts per trillion. Haverhill had a total of 4.9 parts per trillion. Again, the report lists Newburyport with 112 parts per trillion. If this report is not accurate, the city needs to set the record straight.

The PFAS family of chemicals are called "forever chemicals" and come from non-stick and water-repelling chemicals, staying in the environment and human bodies. The EPA confirms through peer-reviewed studies that PFAS chemicals have adverse health impacts.

I submit two questions to the City of Newburyport:

- 1) What is the shorter-term and long-term plan to improve the quality of our drinking water?
- 2) What is the city doing to clearly and successfully notify residents about drinking water quality so we may purchase filters for our homes while the city addresses the problems?

The issue of our drinking water quality should rise to the top of the priority list for the City of Newburyport and merits a meeting of the Committee of the Whole in conjunction with the Water and Sewer Commission.

With sincerity,



Kathleen O'Connor Ives, Resident

2 Prince Place
Newburyport, MA 01950