Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York
123 Grand Street, Newburgh, New York, 12550
Phone: (845) 569-7366 www.cityofnewburgh-ny.gov/conservation-advisory-council

Council Members:
Richard Harper, Chairman
C. Kippy Boyle
Deborah Dresser
Gail Fulton
Karen McCarthy
Phil Prinzivalli
Chuck Thomas

May 18, 2016 **Transmitted by email**

Mayor Kennedy & Council Members
City of Newburgh
83 Broadway
Newburgh, NY 12550

RE: Protecting Our Drinking Water Sources – Public Health
Washington Lake & Brown's Pond

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

We are writing to commend the City Manager for the emergency actions he recently took to protect the public from toxic chemicals in our drinking water source, Washington Lake. The problem was clear and it needed to be addressed. Because of his proactive response to a potential threat, finding the sources of and removing pollutants from our drinking water are now priority issues. The responses from both state and federal representatives clearly demonstrate the importance of protecting our water supplies.

Washington Lake and Brown's Pond are critical to our future collective well-being. The City needs its own supplies – ones that were created by our forward-looking predecessors. It is our duty to maintain and enhance them. That is why the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) focused our 6-month bio-diversity assessment training on the City of Newburgh drinking watershed. We are very familiar with the science and history of Brown's Pond, Silver Stream and Washington Lake. In the coming month, the CAC will publish the results of our studies that were conducted in conjunction with the NYS DEC and Hudsonia at Bard College, and funded by the DEC.

From the beginning, the CAC has been vigilant and vocal about the importance of protecting Washington Lake. In 2014, we initiated and joined with the City's Engineering & Water Departments in advocating for site plan changes for Crystal Run Health Care before the Town of Newburgh's Planning Board. Together, we sought to minimize the encroaching development along Washington Lake's shoreline buffer zone. To our knowledge, the Engineering & Water Departments had never before taken such protective actions. We continue to work closely with City departments to present a unified voice in protecting our natural resources. The City of Newburgh must continue this proactive stance to protect our water, a vitally important City asset.

The City Manager's actions were clear and decisive. We concur with the resulting water conservation guidelines. As the investigation and remediation process unfolds, we ask that the CAC continue to be apprised of the actions at all levels of government.

Sincerely,

Richard Harper

Richard Harper, Chairman

Cc: Michael Ciaravino, City Manager