

**TOWNSHIP OF VERONA
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION No. 2021-116

A motion was made by Councilwoman Holland; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath that the following resolution be adopted:

**URGING FEDERAL FUNDING BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE CITIZENS
OF VERONA, AS WELL AS OTHER NEW JERSEY COMMUNITIES, THAT
ARE ALREADY TAKING ACTION TO PROVIDE CLEANER WATER**

WHEREAS, Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), consisting of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), and perfluorohexane sulfonate (PFHxS), are a group of manmade chemicals with many commercial and industrial uses that have been associated with a variety of adverse health effects in humans; and

WHEREAS, PFAS can dissolve in water, human exposure to PFAS in drinking water is primarily from ingestion; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Resource Defense Council, due to their widespread use and the fact that they don't break down and can spread quickly through our environment, PFAS are now detected in the bodies of 99 percent of Americans; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has issued a lifetime drinking water Health Advisory for PFOA and PFOS of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) individually or when concentrations of PFOA and PFOS are combined; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey is especially hard-hit by PFAS contamination, with 1.6 million of the 6 million people exposed to levels of PFOA and PFOS that exceed the USEPA's lifetime health advisory of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) live in New Jersey – the most of any single state; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey became the first state to establish a drinking water standard for a PFAS chemical based on current scientific information when it set a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFNA, at 13 parts per trillion (ppt); and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), by recent rule adoption in June 2020, has also established enforceable MCLs for PFOA at 14 ppt and PFOS at 13 ppt; and

WHEREAS, actions necessary to remediate the contamination of PFAS in water systems, is very costly to municipalities; and

WHEREAS, Verona, like many communities in New Jersey, has aging municipal utility infrastructure and related drinking water concerns, including but not limited to PFAS that may be helped by federal assistance; and

WHEREAS, multiple bills proposed in Congress, including H.R. 3684, the "Infrastructure Bill," with amendments pending before the House of Representatives, have provisions that may provide funding for remediation and infrastructure upgrades to address PFAS; and.

WHEREAS, through New Jersey's leadership and early action, these contaminants were already identified in Verona's municipal wells and the remediation and abatement effort is currently in progress; and

WHEREAS, Verona wishes to ensure that the remediation actions taken now, for the protection of our citizens, can qualify for funding that may later become available through this Infrastructure Bill or other federal funding; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that the Infrastructure Bill, or other federal legislation, ensure that federal assistance for the remediation of these contaminants be available to communities, like

Verona, that are already addressing drinking water quality for our citizens, and any accompanying State legislation or regulations do the same.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey, that representatives of the citizens of Verona are urged to ensure that federal funding be made available to the citizens of Verona, as well as other New Jersey communities, that are already taking action to provide cleaner water; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the entire Congressional Delegation representing the State of New Jersey including Senators Robert Menendez and Cory Booker and Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill, Governor Philip D. Murphy, State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly Craig Coughlin, Senator Joseph Pennachio, Assemblyman Jay Webber, Assemblywoman Betty Lou DeCroce, NJDEP Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette and the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA AT THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 31, 2021.


JENNIFER KIERNAN
MUNICIPAL CLERK

