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April 22, 2009

Dear Residents and Business Owners,

You may have seen recent media reports about the drinking water in Crestwood. The trustees of the Village of Crestwood and I understand how important clean, safe drinking water is to you and your families so I wanted to provide you with this information.

First of all, Illinois EPA Director Doug Scott has stated the public's health was never at risk.

I can also tell you our drinking water is safe. The media reports have centered on a well that was used to supplement the Lake Michigan Water we have provided to our community for more than 40 years. **The well in question was shut off in September, 2007 and has not been in operation since.**

For years until 2007, well water, treated by chlorine, was periodically incorporated into the village water supply during times of high demand. There is no evidence that the drinking water that flowed from our kitchen taps contained any substances inconsistent with what the law allows. Lake Michigan water has continued to be the source for at least 90 percent of the water supply.

As mayor, I can tell you the leaders of this community, including my father who served four decades as mayor, have always put the safety and security of our residents first. When this village was first founded, resident drinking water came from wells. Bringing Lake Michigan Water to Crestwood was a major improvement to the quality of life of our residents.

There are questions being raised in the media over whether we properly reported our use of the well to the state EPA prior to its shutdown. We are now working with the EPA and the Illinois Attorney General's Office to review what took place. If we failed to report properly, we will take measures to correct that. But believe me no one in the Crestwood Village Government, past or present, would ever intentionally allow a hazard to threaten our community.

We understand many residents and business owners feel anxiety over these reports. We want to respond to your questions and concerns so we have established a web site: www.villageofcrestwood.org. We will be providing updated information to you as our review of this matter develops. If you have questions, you can also email us from that site or at info@villageofcrestwood.org.

On behalf of our trustees and my family, I want to thank you for your time and apologize for any anxiety that you experienced.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Stranczek", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Robert Stranczek