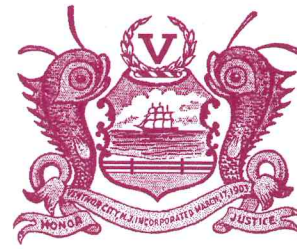




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Stephen D. Weintrob
Commissioner

August 5, 2011

PRESS RELEASE

I share with the General Public the concerns about the recent events unfolding about the Ventnor water and sewer systems. I can only hope that the Professionals and Department Heads in charge are encouraged by their respective Commissioner/Directors to resolve these matters quickly and with the Public's Safety foremost in their minds.

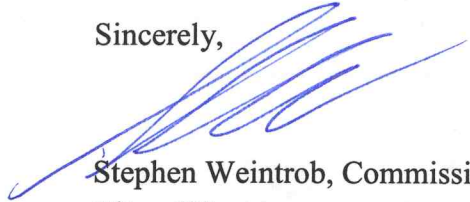
As the former Director of the Public Works Department I attempted to maintain an effective maintenance system coupled with continuous Public involvement in order to prevent such issues from occurring. On many occasions, my oversight and direction was met with resistance as it dealt with changing long established internal practices. More importantly, attempts at acquiring sewer and water equipment and performing capital improvements, many of which were already bonded for, was met with constant political criticism and resistance. This resulted in a purely political decision by those in control to unilaterally transfer my Department assignment from the Public Works Department to the Finance Department. Most recently I was informed that I was not permitted to have or review certain documents that would even be available to the Public under the OPRA Regulations. As such, the Public needs to be aware of the larger problems in Ventnor.

Certainly, breaks in an aging system and unforeseen events will occur. But my experience with the Sewer and Water Department taught me that it needs continuous direction and support in order to avoid such occurrences that we have recently read about. The Public should be continuously involved, not just merely talked at once or twice per month with overtones. Contact with Department Heads is needed on a daily basis with assurances by those Supervisors that all testing and maintenance is being performed to assure the Public's Safety. Lastly, the Department needs to be supported with proper equipment and funded improvements.

These recent events are a result of the lack of that control and support. It is a clear and undeniable indication of the lack of credibility of this a Majority of the Commissioner and all that it stands for. Political decisions and accusations are being made more for political posturing than for problem resolution. I was elected with the other Commissioners to move Ventnor forward. I am certain, and it must appear that way to the General Public, that, if anything, it has moved backwards. We are unable to swim in the Bay and we have to boil water. This at the peak of our Summer Season; and we are finding this out days afterward.

I may not be able to advance this City as the MINORITY of the voting block of Commissioners in the way that it needs to, but the Public needs to be aware of this incompetence as well as demand resolution and assurance that these events will finally end. It has been decided by the other two that I am not to make any decisions or see information that the other two can see. But they cannot stop the Public from making demands for their accountability. We need to take our Town back from the current Middle Ages thinking.

Sincerely,



Stephen Weintrob, Commissioner of Revenue & Finance
City of Ventnor