NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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July 28, 2018: Daily Update on the Parchment PFAS Water Public Health Emergency

KALAMAZOO, MI— The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department will provide a news release each day at 4:00 p.m. for the community with the latest information, and report on the daily activities surrounding the Parchment PFAS Water Public Health Emergency.

Water Distribution
7,000 cases of water has been provided to the community since the beginning of the incident.

The distribution of water will continue from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 28, and Sunday, July 29, at the Parchment High School. We are now asking residents to verify their address when they pick-up their water supply.

Starting Monday, July 30, water distribution will be from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Town Hall Scheduled
A Town Hall meeting will take place at Haven Reformed Church (5350 N Sprinkle Rd, Kalamazoo, MI 49004) on Tuesday, July 31. The open house is from 5:00-6:00 p.m. and the program is from 6:00-8:30 p.m. Residents living in the city of Parchment and Cooper Township residents with homes supplied by the Parchment water supply are encouraged to attend. An update on the status of the water response activities will be provided, and residents will have the opportunity to receive more information regarding Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), health impacts and plans for interim and long-term water supply solutions.

Parchment Water Hotline (269-373-5346)
The Parchment Water Hotline is still operational for residents to call with questions or concerns. Staff from the Health & Community Services Department are on the phones from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. We now only have one number to call, please dial 269-373-5346.

City of Kalamazoo: Public Works
As the City of Kalamazoo works with the City of Parchment to flush Parchment’s water lines, Parchment water users may see a temporary increase in discolored water due to sediments in the water lines being stirred up. Parchment residents should not consume the water until notified it is safe to drink.
Water customers in the northeast part of the City of Kalamazoo may also see a temporary increase in discolored water as a result of more water moving through Kalamazoo’s system to Parchment. Kalamazoo city water customers may continue to use and drink their water.

Controls are in place to prevent Parchment water from flowing into the City of Kalamazoo’s water system.

Declaration of Emergency
A local state of emergency was declared by Kalamazoo County Commissioner Stephanie Moore, Board Chair, and request for aid assistance was submitted to the State of Michigan. The City of Parchment, Cooper Township, City of Kalamazoo, and Kalamazoo County Government all agreed that declaring a local state of emergency was a necessary next step. This is the beginning of a process with the State of Michigan. The State of Michigan will now review the request for aid, and conduct further logistical discussions with the local authorities. By signing the local declaration of emergency, the local authorities together are requesting additional resources and support for the residents affected by the elevated levels of PFAS found in the City of Parchment’s water supply system. Two pictures of the declaration are below.

(Centered) Kalamazoo County Commissioner Stephanie Moore, Board Chair, signs Declaration of Emergency while (Left to Right) City of Parchment Mayor Rob Britigan, Kalamazoo County Emergency Manager Pat Wright and City of Kalamazoo Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain look on.

City of Parchment Mayor Rob Britigan and Kalamazoo County Commissioner Stephanie Moore, Board Chair, shake hands after signing the Declaration of Emergency. (Left to Right) Kalamazoo County Emergency Manager Pat Wright and City of Kalamazoo Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain look on.

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