



TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Office of the Mayor and Town Council

May 30, 2021

Mr. Keith James, Mayor
City of West Palm Beach
401 Clematis Street
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

VIA EMAIL: KJames@wpb.org

RE: Presence of Cylindrospermopsis in the City of West Palm Beach's Water System

Dear Mayor James,

The presence of cylindrospermopsis (CYN) in the City's drinking water system is deeply concerning. I know you share this concern and I'm sure your team at the City is committed to addressing the contamination of our shared water supply in the near term, as well as into the future. The purpose of this letter is to express my disappointment with the limited and delayed communication about the CYN issue with the Town of Palm Beach.

After speaking to our Public Works team yesterday, I learned that we were first notified about the presence of CYN in the City's water system on Friday, May 28, 2021, at approximately 4:54 pm, at which time we were informed that the City's Water Treatment Plant had received lab results higher than normal of cyanobacteria in the drinking water. We were also advised that the results were inclusive of the water supply intake and corrective measures were being taken for treatment. The City explained that they were working with the Health Department, FDEP, and EPA to identify the type of toxin, proper steps for treatment, and the effects on the general population. The City stated the general population affected could be young children under the age of six, pregnant women and nursing mothers, and those with pre-existing liver conditions but needed additional information from the lab results and agencies before a formal advisory or notification could be issued. The Town continued to request information from the City throughout the evening and received an advisory notice at 10:27 pm, at which time we immediately forwarded to our residents to advise them of the water quality issue and precautions they should take.

According to the advisory notice issued by the City, the bacteria was initially detected on Thursday, May 20, 2021, from a May 17 water sample. While we understand that it is appropriate to complete secondary tests and examine additional water samples, we are disappointed that the City did not contact our team to advise us of a potential problem when it was first learned. I'm suspect my colleagues in South Palm Beach feel the same. We are partners and share responsibility for providing safe drinking water to our residents and we also share the responsibility to quickly notify the public when there is a problem so that they may take the necessary precautions to protect themselves, their families, and their pets.

The communication expectations are extremely clear to our staff, especially when it concerns public health. I urge you to ensure an open line of communication between our teams as you work towards near and longer-term solutions for the drinking water supply our communities depend on.

Sincerely,

Danielle Moore

Danielle H. Moore, Mayor

Cc: Town Council
Kirk Blouin, Town Manager
Jay Boodheshwar, Deputy Town Manager
Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works