



KAPPA ALPHA PSI NORTHERN PROVINCE

POLITICAL AWARENESS & SOCIAL ACTION

iKare about Flint

BACKGROUND

The Flint water crisis is an ongoing drinking water contamination crisis in Flint, Michigan. In March 2013, the Flint city council voted to switch their water supply from the Detroit Water and Sewer Department (DWSD) to the new \$233 million Lake Huron-sourced Karegnondi Water Authority (KWA). The switch was also approved by the Flint emergency manager. DWSD strongly opposed Flint being allowed to join KWA and released a document accusing Flint of starting a 'water war' and asked the state to block Flint's participation in KWA. State Treasurer, Andy Dillon, approved Flint joining KWA but gave DWSD the opportunity to make a final offer to convince Flint to stay on Detroit water. Flint declined the final DWSD offer. Immediately after Flint declined the offer, DWSD gave Flint notice that their long-standing water agreement would terminate in twelve months. This meant that Flint's water agreement with Detroit would end in April 2014 but construction of KWA was not expected to be completed until the end of 2016. Therefore, in April 2014 (when the water agreement terminated), Flint switched their water supply from DWSD to Flint's backup supply, the Flint River. The Flint River was expected to supply potable water until KWA construction was completed in 2016. Given that DWSD strongly opposed Flint joining KWA and that Flint provided 6% (\$22 million) of DWSD revenue, it is not clear why DWSD terminated the agreement in 2013 as they could have received revenue for at least two additional years and they did not have a buyer waiting to take over the Flint water.

After the change in water source, the city's drinking water had a series of issues that culminated with lead contamination, creating a serious public health danger. The corrosive Flint River water caused lead from aging pipes to leach into the water supply, causing extremely elevated levels of lead. As a result, between 6,000 and 12,000 residents had severely high levels of lead in the blood and experienced a range of serious health problems. The water change is also a possible cause of an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in the county that has killed 10 people and affected another 77.

On November 13, 2015, four families filed a federal class action lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit against Governor Rick Snyder and thirteen other city and state officials, and three separate people filed a similar suit in state court two months later, and three more lawsuits were filed after that. Separately, the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan and the Michigan Attorney General's office opened investigations. On January 5, 2016, the city was declared to be in a state of emergency by the Governor of Michigan, before President Obama declared the crisis as a federal state of emergency, authorizing additional help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Homeland Security less than two weeks later. Three government officials—one from the City of Flint and two from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality—resigned over the mishandling of the crisis, and Gov. Snyder issued an apology to citizens.

FRATERNITY ACTION PLAN

In September 2015, it was announced that the water fountains in the schools were being shut off. The Flint Alumni Chapter reacted immediately by delivering water to the schools in the city weekly. They even challenged other Divine 9 organizations to adopt two schools in the city to deliver water to.

As the crisis in Flint gained national media coverage, individual chapters around the Northern Province began to engage in efforts to support the residents of Flint through water distribution and fundraising campaigns. The following plan is designed to unite these efforts under one comprehensive effort that addresses the immediate needs, short-term needs and long-term needs of all those affected by the water crisis in Flint.

AREAS OF NEED:

In coordination with the Flint Alumni Chapter, we are focusing our efforts in four major categories: Water collection, Volunteerism, Financial Donations and Long-Term Education. We will be partnering with local organizations and government agencies to ensure the citizens of Flint receive services and support.

Water Deliveries

We recognize the desire for brothers and chapters to provide bottled water to the city. However, there is an ever growing unintended result of the out pouring efforts from the nation...Storage. We also acknowledge local leaders and organizations that have access to warehouses and other large facilities. We are partnering with the following organizations that are better equipped to receive the expected deliveries of water:

Over 50 Cases

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor Rodney Ellison
810-309-6543

Food Bank of Eastern Michigan
2300 Lapeer Rd., Flint, MI 48503
810-239-4441

Less than 50 Cases

Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church
 Pastor Bro. Gerald Cardwell
 810- 232- 9950

Catholic Charities Services
 901 Chippewa St., Suite 1, Flint, MI 48503
 810-232-9950

Genesee County Community Action Agency
 2727 Lippincott Blvd., Flint, MI 48507
 810-789-3746 or 810-789-4409

Chapters that have collected water to donate to Flint residents should contact Bro. Darryl Campbell at 248-514-0403 to coordinate any water deliveries between Kappa Alpha Psi Chapters and Provinces with above agencies and/or other selected sites. Be sure to record the date of the delivery as well as the number of cases and participating Brothers.

Volunteer Opportunities

There is a need for Brothers to assist with the ongoing efforts to distribute water to the residents of Flint. The Flint Alumni Chapter has designated the 3rd Saturday of each month as **iKare About Flint** day where brothers are asked to come to Flint for the day and help where needed. The chapters of the Northern Province will be assigned a month of the year to travel to Flint for the day and assist the Flint Alumni Chapter where needed. The month assigned to each alumni chapter will also be assigned to the collegiate chapter(s) associated with them. The months are assigned as follows:

Chapters	Volunteer Weekend
All Northern Province Chapters	March 19 th – March Madness Event and Volunteer Weekend
Detroit Alumni	April 16 th
Benton Harbor Alumni, Toledo Alumni	May 21 st
Grand Rapids Alumni, Epsilon Tau	June 18 th
Kalamazoo Alumni, Gamma Beta	July 16 th
Lansing Alumni, Delta Pi	August 20 th
Ann Arbor/ Ypsilanti/Inkster Alumni, Delta Nu, Sigma	September 17 th
Southfield Alumni, Nu Upsilon	October 15 th
Pontiac Alumni, Kappa Upsilon	November 19 th
Saginaw Alumni, Eta Rho, Pi Zeta	December 17 th

The Social Action Chair of each of the assigned chapters should contact Bro. Cecil Timms at 810-287-6870 to coordinate the volunteers and the volunteer activities for the day. Be sure to record the activities and number of participating Brothers.

Financial Donations

There is need for financial resources to fund other items and services needed by the residents of Flint. We are asking all brothers to donate \$19.11 to their local chapter. Local Chapters are asked to forward these funds monthly to the Province Keeper of Exchequer. The Province goal is to raise \$10,000 for Flint. Once this goal is reached, the funds will be forwarded to Kappa Foundation. The Foundation will disburse the funds to Flint Alumni Chapter for the funding of these items and services.

Long-Term Education

As a result of this crisis, there is a need to provide residents with long term education on the effects of lead poisoning. Our goal is to bring the Genesee County Health department to the community through a series of free seminars at the following locations:

Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church
2101 Lippincott Boulevard
Flint, MI 48503
Contact: Rev. Bro. Gerald Cardwell

Christ the King Catholic Church
1811 Seymore Avenue
Flint, MI 48505

Vernon Chapel A.M.E. Church
5701 Dupont
Flint, MI 48505
Contact: Bro. Floyd Clack

Brothers with specific skills or professional training that want to donate services to assist in educating the public should contact Bro. Lawrence Radliff to coordinate upcoming seminars. Be sure to record the date of the seminar, the topic and the number of attendees.

KALL TO ACTION OUTLINE:

Immediate Action (Next 30 Days)

- Chapters that have collected water will contact Flint Alumni to arrange for the delivery.
- Based on the total tally, arrange for delivery of the cases to the appropriate distribution center on the 3rd Saturday in March.
- Brothers will be come prepared to deliver the cases of water as well as assist in the distribution on that day.

Short-Term Action (30 to 90 days)

- Launch the “**iKare about Flint**” fundraising campaign in the Northern Province that will run the months of March, April and May.
 - During these months, we will ask all brothers to donate \$19.11 to their local chapters.
 - The funds raise will be forwarded to the Province Keeper of Exchequer.
 - The goal is to raise \$10,000 on behalf of the province.

- Northern Province Chapters have been assigned a month to volunteer in Flint on the 3rd Saturday alongside the brothers of Flint Alumni to distribute water and provide other assistance where needed.

Long-Term Action (3 Months to 12 Months)

- Northern Province Chapters will continue their assigned month volunteering in Flint on the 3rd Saturday alongside the brothers of Flint Alumni to distribute water and provide other assistance where needed.
- Expand the **“iKare About Flint”** fundraising campaign to the entire Fraternity running from March through December with the same expectations and goal set for the Northern Province.
- Bro. Marvin Dunham has designed a system to collect precipitation and convert it to safe drinking water. He has the backing of the University of Michigan to build the prototypes and prove out his theory on the conversion process.
 - Bro. Dunham will work with Rev. Bro. Cardwell and his fellow pastors to install 2-3 water systems in Flint on the ground to prove out the concept and show people it works.
 - Recruit undergraduate brothers to help implement, test, and validate the system as we support Flint's immediate and short-term needs.
 - Once the water system is validated, develop a plan to use the system to provide fresh water to residents of Flint.

This plan is a working document and should be modified and changed as needed to ensure that the fraternity's efforts are the most impactful and effective to address the needs of all those effected by this water crisis.

Respectfully submitted,
James V. Jackson
Chairman
Northern Province
Political Awareness & Social Action Committee