

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 080288)

RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Council Committees on Public Health and Human Services and Environment to hold hearings regarding the safety of the City's drinking water.

WHEREAS, And according to a March 11, 2008 article in *The Philadelphia Daily News* and a March 10, 2008 article in the *Associated Press*, the City's Water Department has failed to inform its 1.5 million users that traces of 56 pharmaceuticals or their byproducts – like the active ingredients to treat depression, anxiety, high cholesterol, fever, and pain – have been detected in the City's drinking water; and

WHEREAS, It was also reported that traces of pharmaceuticals were found in the drinking water of 41 million Americans, living in 24 major metropolitan areas, and that 63 pharmaceuticals or their byproducts had been found in the City's source watersheds; and

WHEREAS, City residents receive their drinking water from two treatment plants located on the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers and these plants treat water for harmful micro-organisms, not pharmaceutical traces, and treated water returns to these rivers and eventually ends up in the City's kitchen tap and drinking water; and

WHEREAS, In response to the *Associated Press* report, the *Philadelphia Daily News* reported that alarmed City residents flooded the City's Water Department with calls concerning pharmaceuticals and their byproducts in the City's drinking water; and

WHEREAS, One reason for this problem is that various residents discard pharmaceuticals and other items in their toilets, which ultimately returns to the City's drinking water and one solution to this problem could be the expansion of the City's prescription drug take-back program; now therefore, be it

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RESOLUTION NO. 080288 continued

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA,
That the Committees on Public Health and Human Services and Environment are authorized to hold hearings regarding the safety of the City's drinking water.

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RESOLUTION NO. 080288 continued

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the thirteenth of March, 2008.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Patricia Rafferty
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Tasco and Kenney

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Tasco, Kenney, Rizzo, Greenlee, Sanchez, Jones, Miller, Clarke, Blackwell, Goode, Council President Verna, Councilmembers Green, Kelly and DiCicco