



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MAYOR MIKE MURPHY'S STATEMENT REGARDING THE LAWSUIT BROUGHT BY THE
CITY OF BLAINE OVER OUR WATER SYSTEMS**

Lexington, MN - 09/23/2022,

I am disappointed that the City of Blaine has taken this action. The City of Lexington has extended several olive branches to resolve this matter. I have requested on two occasions that our two city councils meet to discuss the issue. Lexington also offered to turn our water system over to the City of Blaine. This option would have been a big win for both of our communities and brought an immediate resolution to the issue. Blaine would have saved their taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in construction costs to separate our joint water system. Blaine would have picked up 5000 new billable water users overnight, and Lexington residents would have received treated water year around versus only six months of the year and at a lower cost.

I strongly reject any claim made by the City of Blaine that Lexington's water is unsafe due to a positive test of gross alpha at the source of our water well system. Lexington and our city engineers have been working with the State of Minnesota on solutions and a long-term plan to lower the numbers within state standards, and we have been successful in doing so.

Lexington is currently looking at several options for our water system, including building a treatment plant. We were hoping our request for state assistance for infrastructure would have made the bonding bill for 2021, but unfortunately, those requests were not considered due to an impasse with the House, Senate, and Governor. We will try again when the session starts in 2023.

Unfortunately, our two communities are at an impasse, and Blaine has asked the court to determine ownership of the water system and if the Joint Powers Agreement is still enforceable. I am confident that our two cities will come to an agreement that mutually benefits both communities without having a long, drawn-out legal battle. Our two cities have always been good neighbors, and I would hate to see this situation ruin decades of working relationships between our two cities. I will have a more extensive update after the City Council meets at our October 6th meeting.

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