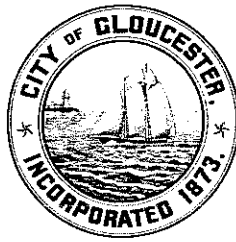


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CITY OF GLOUCESTER
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

RECEIVED

OCT 21 2009

TOWN OF ESSEX
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

October 23, 2009

Jeffrey Jones, Chairman
Board of Selectmen
Town of Essex
30 Martin Street, 2nd floor
Essex, MA 01929

Dear Chairman Jones:

Slowly but surely the water system is returning to normal in the City of Gloucester. The recent difficulties we experienced under the Boil Order were extraordinarily difficult to overcome. In the end, over 55 people participated under our emergency Incident Command structure in an effort to gain control over the situation.

As you can imagine, the 20-days of boiling water late this past summer was a hardship for our citizens and businesses. There really is no way to properly thank the Town of Essex for the assistance that was given to our city during this time. In no exaggerated terms, the Town of Essex and your dedicated staff basically helped rescue our water system, and was instrumental in safely restoring normal drinking water to the men, women and children of Gloucester.

Town of Essex staff worked on our behalf when needed including nights and weekends – giving up precious family and personal time. More than one risky operation had to occur to confront our challenges one of which was shutting the water treatment plant down for a deep cleaning which essentially had the potential to leave the city without any water at all.

If it weren't for the water we received from Essex, Manchester-by-the-Sea, and Rockport, a serious situation could have turned for the much worse. As I shared with our City Council, I wish emergencies came in neat little packages – but unfortunately they don't, and there were certainly some bumps in the road.

Know that should Essex need assistance from Gloucester, we stand at the ready. With the permission of this Board, I would like to appear before you to personally thank the Town of Essex for its assistance. My office will be in touch to follow up.

From your grateful neighbor,

Carolyn A. Kirk
Mayor, City of Gloucester