



The State University of New York  
Student Assembly

**1617-SC07**  
**Johnson, Wolfe**

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### **MEMORANDUM 1617-SC07**

**TO: Members of the Student Assembly**

**FROM: Batya Johnson, Purchase Student Government Association;  
Conner Wolfe, University Colleges Representative**

**ENDORSED: Rules Committee**

**DATE: April 8, 2017**

**SUBJECT: Campus Water Quality**

#### **Action Requested**

We recommend that the Student Assembly of The State University of New York call for campus water quality testing in accordance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency Lead and Copper Rule and the public reporting of results..

#### **Resolution**

I recommend that the Student Assembly of the Student Assembly of the State University of New York (SUNYSA) adopt the following resolution:

Whereas in the Spring 2016 semester the Purchase College Green Fee Council/Purchase Student Government Association paid \$5,315 for the testing of water fountains in academic buildings after campus administration refused to do so, and;

Whereas these tests were conducted in August of 2016 and showed elevated (above Environmental Protection Agency action limits) lead or copper levels in the water fountains of 5 different buildings; and

Whereas EPA Lead and Copper Rule has specific guidelines for publishing results of water tests and notifying constituents within a specific timeframe based on the size of the public water system; and

Whereas upon receiving these results Purchase College had adopted the best practice of flushing fire hydrants every 6 months; and,

Whereas upon further investigation by students, it became known that Purchase College had not been testing water according to the Environmental Protection

Agency's Lead and Copper Rule (LCR)2 , 56 FR 26460 - 26564, June 7, 1991; and,

Whereas Purchase students rallied and marched to the President's Office to demand comprehensive water testing in accordance with EPA guidelines; and,

Whereas only after this direct action by students, did the administration of Purchase College test all portable point water sources on campus; and,

Whereas Purchase College had flushed fire hydrants the day before the samples for these tests were collected, therefore these tests were not collected under normal use; and,

Whereas even with this flushing, these tests showed elevated (above EPA action limits) levels of lead and copper in student housing; and,

Whereas because Purchase College has not been testing according to EPA Lead and Copper Rule, it is unclear how long students have been exposed to elevated levels of lead and copper in both their on campus housing and from water fountains in academic buildings

Whereas according to the EPA, prolonged exposure to lead can lead to suffering of cardiovascular effects, such as, increased blood pressure and hypertension, decreased kidney function, and reproductive problems in adults; now, therefore be it,

Resolved that the Student Assembly of The State University of New York call upon the State University of New York to recognize access to clean water as a basic right of the students, faculty, and staff of The State University of New York; and, be it

Resolved that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York urge the respective administrations of the 64 campuses of The State University of New York undertake water testing in accordance with the EPA Lead and Copper Rule; and, be it

Resolved that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York urge the respective administrations of the 64 campuses of The State University of New York to report the results of these water tests publically and to the applicable student government association(s); and, be it

Resolved that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York urge the student government associations of the State University of New York to obtain data regarding previous campus water testing for evaluation and EPA compliance should it not be provided by campus administration; and, be it

Resolved that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York urge the student government associations of The State University of New York to advocate for water safety on their respective campuses where possible and when needed; and, be it

Resolved that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York seek to further assist the student government associations of The State University of New York in their advocacy efforts for water safety as needed; and finally, be it,

Resolved that within 20 days upon its passing, the Student Assembly of the State University of New York will forward copies of this resolution to the SUNY Board of Trustees, SUNY Chancellor Zimpher, Executive Committee of the University Faculty Senate, Executive Committee of the Faculty Council of Community Colleges, the Deans of the Statutory Colleges at Cornell and Alfred, SUNY Campus Presidents, SUNY student governing bodies, and all other parties deemed necessary and proper.

### **Appendices**

Appendix A (EPA Lead and Copper Rule Quick Guide)  
Appendix B (Water Issue of the Dissident Publication)