



CITY NEWS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAYOR'S NEWS CONFERENCE STATEMENT

I want to thank the City Manager for his report regarding the financial concerns in the Water Utilities department.

The Wichita City Council and I will thoroughly review the City Manager's recommended actions. The Council also will explore all legitimate options for restoring the stability of the Water Utilities department. Let me stress that this City Council will fulfill its policymaking responsibilities. Water service is a daily necessity across our community. It's essential for our residents, businesses and industries.

The financial health of our Water utility department is critical to the overall health and success of the Wichita area. I support the City Manager's immediate steps to address and resolve these pressing financial concerns including:

- His request for an independent review of the ASR, water preservation project;
- And his decision to provide greater internal oversight of the department's finances.

In light of the findings presented here today, I'm directing him to take additional action. I'm recommending the swift formation of a blue-ribbon panel that will provide additional insight and critical feedback for our water and sewer services.

This panel will:

- Reflect the geographical area served by the Water Utilities department;
- Consist of area residents who have financial and technical knowledge as well as a record of civic involvement;
- And serve in a permanent oversight role to help ensure that the financial conditions we've encountered today are not repeated.

Finally, I want Wichita area residents and businesses who depend on our water service to know that the City of Wichita will act promptly, responsibly and effectively to resolve the financial concerns of the department.

Thank you.

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