It has been quite a task for City Staff to keep up with endless FOIA’s and an onslaught of misinformation being sent on behalf of Protect Livingston and others. This most recent press release is just more of the same. Fortunately, the vast majority of people are tired of these types of tactics being used to stoke fear and have essentially tuned the ever-changing attacks by this organization out.

It is also extremely unfortunate that some want to use public water supplies, and rights to that water, to stop an existing, legal use from operating. When the assertion is made that this facility, using 18,000 gallons of “clean water” is a problem, I need to put that into perspective. The City currently provides on average just under 1 million gallons of treated water per day to residential, commercial, and industrial facilities. The City can provide over three times that amount and can treat and provide up to 3.1 million gallons per day, (18,000 gallons a day barely moves the needle as far as capacity goes). In fact, 18,000 gallons per day, if operating 365 days a year, equates to just over 6.5 million gallons annually. Our top industrial user uses approximately 178 million annually. What this breaks down to is that PADNOS wouldn’t even be in our top 10 highest users. Providing treated water to industry is common for domestic use (bathrooms, break rooms, etc.), and for use in their processing, even asphalt plants and wastewater treatment plants require the use of treated “clean” water. The assertion that somehow the water is mixed with or made dirty by the process is just another inaccurate and misleading assertion made by this group.

The City of Howell master planned long ago to run a 12-inch loop through the “Loop Road” property for future developments; and connection to the existing stub on D-19 by either the National Street main or the stub on Lucy Road was always part of that plan. To state otherwise is grossly incompetent or purposefully misleading. Providing utilities to Lucy Road and the other 400+ developable acres along this corridor has been a long planned and transparent process as we have worked with countless developers over the past several decades on this plan. The PADNOS facility just as any other taxpaying company has the right to water and sewer connections. The agreement between Howell and PADNOS simply protects the city as it relates to a timeline in which utilities can be provided.

Furthermore, the item discussed at the Council meeting referenced in this recent press release by Protect Livingston was not about water or sewer, it was about a jurisdictional transfer of a road from Livingston County to the City of Howell. Taking ownership of this road so we can provide an equal level of services to current and future residents has been something that we have contemplated doing for quite some time. The former Mayor made it extremely clear that the item of discussion at that meeting had nothing to do with utilities, only the jurisdictional transfer of Lucy Road, which was an accurate statement. Insinuating that it had to do with something other than that is yet another layer of misinformation that this group continues to spread.

Lastly, this site has been a metal recycling facility for over 40 years, the past several decades as Regal Recycling, and was originally zoned and approved by Genoa Township. Essentially all of the metal recycling, scrap yards and auto salvage yards along Lucy Road have been approved by Genoa or other Townships prior to these parcels being annexed into the City of Howell. The fact that PADNOS purchased the existing facility through a private sale and intends to use a different process for recycling metals while meeting all environmental regulations permitted through the Environmental Protection Agency and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy brings some comfort that this use will continue to be well regulated.

* Erv Suida,

Howell City Manager