



City of Garfield

111 OUTWATER LANE
GARFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07026-2694
www.garfieldnj.org



THOMAS J. DUCH
CITY MANAGER

PHONE: (973) 340-2000
FAX: (973) 253-7965

November 16, 2012

Max Costa, Ph.D.
Judith T. Zelikoff, Ph.D.
New York University School of Medicine
57 Old Forge Road
Tuxedo, New York 10987

Dear Drs. Zelikoff and Costa,

Please allow this letter to serve as a Partnership agreement between the City of Garfield (NJ) and the Department of Environmental Medicine, NYU School of Medicine. I am very enthusiastic about partnering with both of you in assisting the Garfield community members who may have been exposed to chromium as a result of the groundwater contamination.

As you know, in 1983, approximately 3,640 gallons of chromium plating solution containing about 5,400 pounds of chromium was discharged from a partially-below ground storage tank, contaminating groundwater beneath the site of the E.C. Electroplating site. This site is located in a mixed residential and commercial area in Garfield and thus poses a potential exposure risk to the residents and workers in this vicinity. The Garfield site was added to the Federal Superfund list in 2011, and the EPA committed to demolition of the building and cleanup of the Clark Street site and 13 nearby homes.

Your assistance with community outreach to the targeted populations, by providing educational programs, public forums, and focus groups to identify the specific concerns of the community, is crucial for our community at this difficult time. Moreover, your Department's assistance with our health officials to assess chromium burdens in toenail clippings/blood of potentially exposed individuals is an essential element to help relieve stress and reduce public concern. In addition, by working with the governing body and Health Department to offer guidance for treatment of individuals who may have elevated chromium levels, helps to fill and essential gap in public health in our community.

I look forward to partnering with you both in our efforts to perform these measures and help provide scientific education on this serious matter to our fellow citizens of Garfield. We wish you good luck in your Superfund Grant efforts.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Duch, Esq.
City Manager

TJD/p



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