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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (Bristol, CT) August 24, 2020

Voluntary Water Restrictions

(BRISTOL, CT) – Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu announced today that the Bristol Water and Sewer Department will be issuing a notification for Voluntary Water Restrictions effective immediately, due to the City's reservoirs declining to 68 percent capacity from the lack of rain.

"Lack of precipitation across the state has required many water departments to enacted restrictions to their customers back in June," said Robert J. Longo, Superintendent of the Bristol Water and Sewer Department. Mr. Longo added that "The Bristol Water Department has been working diligently since June to utilize all of our supplies and the work has helped us prevent restrictions up to today."

The Bristol Water Department has triggers in their Emergency Response Plan that require them to issue notice when their reservoirs fall to certain percentages. The first trigger is Drought Alert, which goes into effect if the reservoir levels fall below 75 percent capacity anytime from July to December. This first trigger is an internal Alert to the staff of the Water Department to begin preparations for a drought. Although the reservoirs have been over 75% since late July, the Water Department staff initiated the Drought Advisory back in June to make sure all emergency procedures were in place well before needed.

The second trigger is Drought Advisory which is put in place once the reservoirs drop below 70%. On Monday August 24, 2020, the reservoirs capacities fell to 68% and so the Bristol Water Department is issuing Voluntary Water Restrictions effective immediately.

Mayor Zoppo stated, "Water levels at all reservoirs and wells will continue to be monitored regularly to assure that the levels are stabilizing before mandatory restrictions would be required, however without some precipitation, mandatory restrictions are likely to follow."

The Bristol Water and Sewer Department in coordination with the Mayor's office is requesting that customers limit the amount of outside water use and to adhere to the Department's policy on Odd / Even watering. Odd / Even watering allows for properties with an even street number to water on even days of the month and the same for properties with odd street numbers to water on odd days of the month. The Odd / Even watering system also applies to washing cars, watering flowers and any other non-essential outside uses.

City of Bristol

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Superintendent Longo added, "That Bristol Water Department reached out to large water users including the Parks Department, Public Works, Fire Department and the Board of Education asking for their cooperation in reducing usage at their facilities."

Anyone with questions on the restrictions or the City's water supply can contact the Bristol Water and Sewer Department at 860-582-7431. Information on the Voluntary Restrictions along with other ways to conserve water can also be found on the Bristol Water Department website at www.bristolwaterdept.org or on the Bristol Water and Sewer Department's and Mayor's Office Facebook pages.

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