

*We the Registered Nurses of America declare the city of Detroit to be a Public Health Emergency Zone.*

*As United Nations experts have said, the shutoff of water is a violation of human rights.*

*This is not a natural disaster, which makes the shutoff of water especially immoral and unconscionable. Depriving Detroit residents of the water they need and deserve cannot be condoned under any circumstances in a civilized society.*

*Water is life sustaining. All living beings need water to live. Lack of water directly undermines the health and safety of Detroit residents, and their families.*

*For optimal health in our daily lives, we need clean water for drinking. Infants, children, and the elderly are particularly vulnerable; they are more susceptible to dehydration, infection, and disease without access to water.*

*We need clean water for cooking, including washing our food.*

*We need clean water for good hygiene, to bathe in, to wash our clothes, to flush our toilets, and to clean our living spaces.*

*We need clean water for proper sanitation to combat the growth and spread of multiple infectious diseases and pandemics.*

*We need clean water to grow healthy food, for traditional agriculture, but also those low-income families affected by the economic crisis in Detroit who have supplemented their diets and daily food supply with household gardens.*

*We need clean water for a safe and healthy environment, for all living animals and plants that are an essential component of a healthy ecosystem on which we all depend for human health.*

*As registered nurses, we are compelled to advocate for all our patients, whether at the bedside or in our neighborhoods and communities.*

*To that end, we, National Nurses United, on behalf of the nurses of America, declare a public health emergency in Detroit.*

*We demand an immediate end to all water shutoffs.*

*We demand an end to the disgraceful practice of city officials who have removed children from homes where water has been shutoff, an especially inhumane victimization of low-income families already harmed by a city with an appalling missense of priorities.*

*And, we demand the guarantee that all Detroit residents have immediate and full access to clean water.*

