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Residents of Fenwick and the surrounding area,

We would like to address the concerns some of you have been raising over the gas leak that occurred on August 30th 2021. We understand that events like this are frightening and need to be handled very carefully. It is therefore important to address certain issues that have been raised with facts and avoid creating false narratives based on speculation.

1) What is the protocol for a gas leak?

As was stated at the information Town Hall meeting for the Fenwick infrastructure work in June, the protocol for a gas leak is to immediately alert the Fire Department (SIM). Yesterday this was done immediately after the gas leak occurred. It is important to reiterate that only the SIM has jurisdiction in these types of emergencies. Neither the Town nor the contractor is permitted to manage them or instruct residents on how to behave throughout this type of emergency.

2) Why did the construction workers run away?

All workers in the vicinity are compelled to evacuate the site in such cases and wait for the SIM to issue further instructions. Being outside and/or operating any equipment in close proximity to this gas can be extremely dangerous. Thus, you would have seen the workers leave the area quickly.

3) Why weren't residents in the area instructed to evacuate?

The decision to evacuate is up to the SIM once they arrive at the site. They alone judge whether it is safer to stay in your home or evacuate. Sometimes it is best just to stay in your home rather than risk additional exposure to the gas. The last thing the Town wants to do is issue contradictory instructions that might be dangerous and threaten the health and safety of Town residents.

4) What should we do if there is another gas leak?

You can call 911 if there is another emergency of this kind. They will have certainly have been alerted by the construction crew and the Town representative already, but you may get an update on the SIM's arrival, plans or additional information on the situation.

5) What is the Town's responsibility in all this? How can the Town do better?

The Town (and our contractors) are responsible to call the SIM immediately when this type of incident occurs. We also acknowledge based on some of the false information that has circulated in the aftermath of this incident that we as a Town need to be more aggressive in disseminating the abovementioned information on our Town website and via our e-bulletin moving forward. We also plan to amend our project information letter (sent out at the onset of each project) to include basic information on gas leaks to avoid confusion in the future. We



do understand that an incident of this type can be unnerving to everyone, and it is therefore important to have the correct information readily available.

6) How can we prevent another gas leak?

The truth is, we can't. Gas leaks and power outages are extremely common during these large infrastructure projects—no matter the contractor. Every contractor has a large, vested interest in avoiding these accidents and they have many safety protocols to prevent them, but they do happen. We can only react quickly, alerting the SIM, who then resolve the situation as quickly and safely as they can.

Some of your correspondence has suggested that we need to be clearer about these protocols and we will do so immediately on the website and in door-to-door correspondence in the affected area. Gas leaks are terribly unnerving and can lead to panic. Therefore, we will ensure that all area residents have the best information possible, both in advance and during any other such event.