

## **Statement by Warren Mayor Jim Fouts on Actions He Initiated to Prevent the Spread of the Zika Virus, West Nile Virus and Chikungunya**

“I have directed DPW workers to treat all 17,500 catch basins/city storm drains with a special anti-mosquito briquette that will be a major step in preventing mosquito-breeding larvae from forming and spreading.

“Also, I have directed property maintenance inspectors to look for stagnant pools of water in neighborhoods, including swimming pools. These pools must be treated immediately.

“Also, our city parks and recreation employees will immediately take corrective action to eliminate standing water in all public parks and playgrounds.

“These actions are taken prior to the high heat and humidity season when mosquitoes thrive and present a real danger to the public.

“As of April 30, 2016, one death in the U.S. has been linked to the Zika virus.

“As of 2016, the illness cannot be prevented by medications or vaccines. Zika can also spread from a pregnant woman to her fetus. This can result in microcephaly, severe brain malformations, and other birth defects.

“In January 2016, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued travel guidance on affected countries, including the use of enhanced precautions, and guidelines for pregnant women including considering postponing travel.

“I am calling on leaders from other governmental units to take similar actions to stop the spread of these deadly viruses.”