



MEDIA RELEASE

THE CITY OF WESTON

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CITY RESPONSE TO MEDIA INQUIRIES CONCERNING RARE CASE OF NAEGLERIA FOWLERI

Weston, FL – August 12, 2016, 2:00 p.m. - The City of Weston contacted the Florida Department of Health in Broward County (Health Department) at 9:30 a.m. this morning, Friday, August 12, 2016, to inquire about a media report of an amoeba in a water body in Weston that caused an individual to be hospitalized.

During the phone call, initiated by Mayor Daniel Stermer and City Manager John Flint, the Health Department was asked directly if an incident had occurred within the City. They were advised that an individual had in fact contracted a rare case of *Naegleria fowleri* transmitted by an amoeba **in water located on private property, not accessible by the public, within the City's municipal boundaries.**

The Health Department advised they believe that the individual contracted the infection after swimming in unsanitary water on a single private property. Health officials continue to investigate the location and have notified all persons with risk of exposure. No additional cases have been identified.

Citing State Statutes, the Health Department will not disclose the exact location of the water body while the investigation is ongoing.

Mayor Daniel Stermer spoke with CBS4 News regarding this issue to address the public. CBS4 had contacted the City on Thursday, August 12, 2016 to inquire if the City knew of any incident occurring in Weston or if the Health Department had contacted the City. Weston advised CBS4 on Thursday that it was not aware of any incident nor had the City been contacted by the Health Department. Today, after speaking with the Health Department, CBS4 was contacted as a follow up.

Mayor Stermer stressed that residents should have no concern regarding the quality of the water bodies in Weston, and should always be aware that swimming and boating is prohibited. The waterways are not constructed for recreational purposes – they are a series of interconnected lakes and canals which together comprise the City storm water management system.



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The City of Weston routinely maintains its 1,877 acres of lakes and canals to control the natural growth of invasive aquatic vegetation. The City's technicians applying the aquatic herbicides are licensed by the state and strictly adhere to all prescribed safety measures, including the wearing of personal protective suits. News crews covering this incident have shown footage of these crews stating that they are testing the water. They are not. These crews are performing standard maintenance.

For more information:

Florida Department of Health in Broward County <http://broward.floridahealth.gov>
[CDC Naegleria fowleri](#)

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The City of Weston ▪ 954-385-2000 ▪ facsimile 954-385-2010 ▪ www.westonfl.org
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