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# 3M Corporation Pays Out Millions of Dollars to Columbus as Part of Forever Chemical Lawsuit Settlement

*City Attorney Zach Klein filed lawsuit to put corporations—not ratepayers—on the hook to clean up environmental mess caused by forever chemical production and use*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced the City received \$4 million in initial settlement funds stemming from its lawsuit against several major chemical companies for their negligence in the production of forever chemicals, dangerous synthetic compounds created by these companies that are found in many everyday household items and now the environment, which have been linked to numerous health issues.

**“Corporations like 3M knew the dangers of producing forever chemicals, did nothing to protect consumers or the environment, and now are being held accountable for their negligence. This settlement ensures that these companies—not ratepayers—are on the hook for cleaning up the mess they made,”** said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein.

In its lawsuit, the City joined hundreds of other cities in arguing that companies like 3M produced forever chemicals knowing the dangers and failed to warn consumers and the public about the risks associated with these chemicals found in everyday products that have been produced for decades. Over time, these chemicals can build up in the body and the environment, which may cause health problems or contaminate soil, air and/or water sources.

Columbus Water and Power operates a fully staffed Water Quality Assurance Laboratory, which closely monitors the city’s water supply to ensure it is safe, and has been monitoring forever chemical levels for years. The City’s water currently meets or exceeds all drinking water standards, however future technology upgrades to the City’s water infrastructure, which serves Columbus and more than 20 local suburbs, may be required. A portion of settlement funds may be set aside to make any necessary improvements.