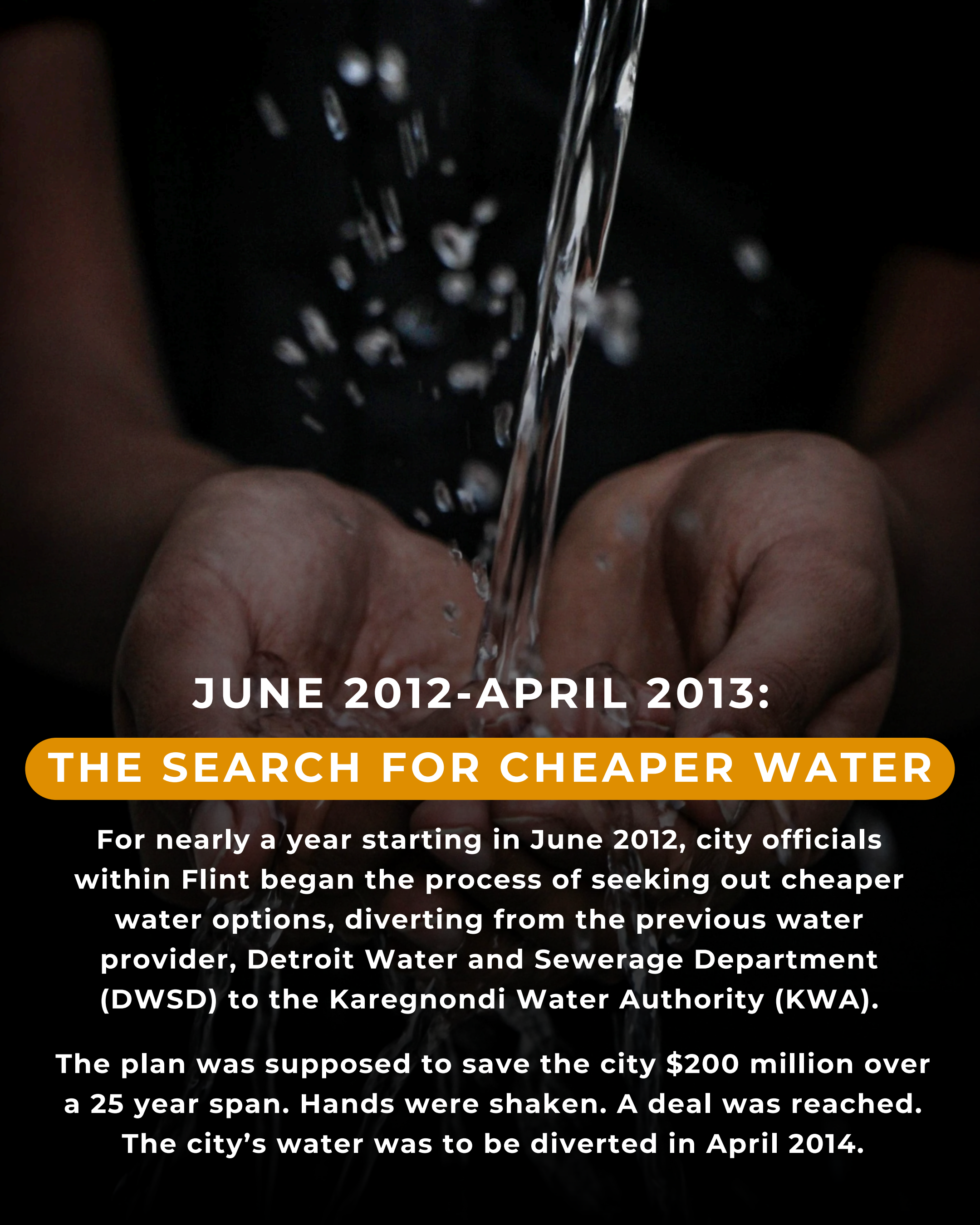






FLINT, MICHIGAN

**They poisoned an entire city.
12 years later, Flint is still fighting.**
Swipe for the story →



JUNE 2012-APRIL 2013:

THE SEARCH FOR CHEAPER WATER

For nearly a year starting in June 2012, city officials within Flint began the process of seeking out cheaper water options, diverting from the previous water provider, Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) to the Karegnondi Water Authority (KWA).

The plan was supposed to save the city \$200 million over a 25 year span. Hands were shaken. A deal was reached. The city's water was to be diverted in April 2014.



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WOMEN STRONG

APRIL 2014

THE SWITCH

Flint's interim water source, the Flint River, begins flowing to Flint residents on April 24, 2014. No city officials thought it necessary to check and treat the Flint River for possible corrosion to the water infrastructure before it poured into homes and businesses, instead taking, as Michigan Radio put it, a "wait-and-see approach."



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WOMEN STRONG

MAY 2014

THE FIRST COMPLAINTS

Not even a month later, residents started raising concerns about hard water, color, smell and overall water quality. E. coli and total coliform bacteria were found in August 2014, leading to the first boil water advisories. The city met these concerns by raising chlorine levels in the water source, adding another problem to an already devastating situation.

By January 2015, chlorine levels were so high that they triggered a byproduct of overdisinfection called TTHM. Flint was in violation the Safe Drinking Water Act, and city officials continue to band-aid over a crater of problems they caused.



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MAY 2014

THEY LIED

Officials knew the “cost-saving” efforts made to save the city a dollar was actively harming Flint and its residents.

They knew for months that the water was unsafe to consume and handle. They dismissed doctors’ warning and constituent complaints, all while the city was poisoned from the outside in, the most harmed being the children of Flint.

Many children developed learning disabilities, behavioral issues and irreversible brain damage due to the obscene levels of lead allowed to flow into their homes beginning in 2014.



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MARCH 2016 - NOW

MARI COPENY WRITES TO WASHINGTON

At just 8 years old, “Little Miss Flint” She wrote a letter to then-President Obama in March 2016:

“Hello, my name is Mari Copeny and I’m 8 years old, I live in Flint, Michigan and I’m more commonly known around town as ‘Little Miss Flint’. I am one of the children that is (a)ffected by this water, and I’ve been doing my best to march in protest and to speak out for all the kids that live here in Flint.”

Mari is 18 now, and while pockets of justice have been served, her fight for safe water and against environmental racism continues.



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WOMEN STRONG

WAYS TO SUPPORT

5 minutes:

Follow @LittleMissFlint and support her ongoing work.
Share this series to your story.
Comment your state's environmental issue.

30 minutes:

Request your city's water quality report.
Research lead pipes in your area.
Donate to Flint water relief.
Find local environmental justice organizations.

Ongoing:

Attend city council meetings.
Join environmental justice organizing.
Volunteer with water justice groups.
Hold elected officials accountable.

Every action matters. Don't wait for permission to fight for what's right. Pick one and start today.