Dear Ms./Mr. [select one] [city council member’s last name],

In the US, one in six women will experience a rape crime in her lifetime. Sexual violence has become a public health crisis, as perpetrators are not being held accountable.

Sexual assault victims who undergo a forensic exam after an attack go through a difficult process that takes up to six hours to complete. The evidence collected is known as a rape kit. This evidence can identify an unknown assailant, link crimes together, and identify serial offenders.

Over thirty states have passed legislation requiring police departments to submit every rape kit for DNA testing. This has resulted in the indictments and convictions of thousands of rapists.

However, despite efforts to test every new rape kit, over 100,000 evidentiary rape kits have been left untested in law enforcement and crime lab storage facilities across the United States.

The backlog of untested kits has allowed perpetrators to reoffend and has robbed victims of the opportunity for justice.

Unfortunately, in many states the burden of clearing backlogged tests has fallen to municipal authorities.

I urge you to clear our city’s backlogged rape kits that are currently untested. This investment would save lives, prevent suffering, and make our city, state, and country a safer place for everyone.

Sincerely,
[Your name]