

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Lead is a toxic metal that can cause severe health issues, particularly in children and pregnant women, and prolonged exposure to lead can lead to developmental delays, learning disabilities, and damage to nervous systems and kidneys; and

WHEREAS, Since even low levels of lead exposure can have detrimental health effects over time, any amount of lead in drinking water poses a public health problem; and

WHEREAS, With approximately 400,000 lead service lines – the most in the nation – the City of Chicago has a moral and civic obligation to address this public health threat by replacing lead water service lines with safer piping alternatives; and

WHEREAS, The continued use of lead water service lines – particularly in importunately affected minority and low-income communities, which are least likely to be able to afford lead service line replacements – constitutes not only a public health and environmental crisis, but also a crisis of equity and justice that the City must address; and

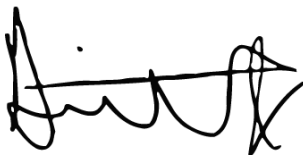
WHEREAS, While the City Council has authorized the creation of various lead service line replacement programs by the Department of Water Management (the “Department”), the City has thus far failed to implement an impactful lead service line replacement program that effectively addresses the existing public health and environmental threat; and

WHEREAS, The State and federal government have recently authorized various programs to assist municipalities in removing and replacing lead service lines; and

WHEREAS, The City must institute an aggressive, bold, and equitable lead service line replacement program to address the urgent public health and environmental risks and maximize the program’s impact by leveraging available State and federal funding; now, therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the members of the City Council, call upon the Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology Development and the Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy to hold a joint subject matter hearing on lead service line replacement programs in the City, and to invite water safety experts from not-for-profit organizations and private industry and officials from other municipalities who have successfully implemented lead service line replacement programs to testify regarding best practices on the effective removal and replacement of municipal lead service lines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we call upon the Commissioner of Water Management, the Deputy Mayor for Infrastructure and Services, and the Commissioner of Public Health, or their respective designees, to attend such hearing and provide information and testimony regarding the current state of lead service line replacement programs in the City.



GILBERT VILLEGAS
Alderman, 36th Ward



MARIA E. HADDEN
Alderwoman, 49th Ward