

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago has an estimated 390,000 lead service lines—the most of any city in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The federal Lead and Copper Rule of 1991 established a maximum contaminant level goal of zero for lead in drinking water, acknowledging the dangerous health consequences of lead even low levels of exposure; and

WHEREAS, Over 30% of Chicago households tested have a lead concentration above 5 parts per billion (ppb)—the FDA's legal limit for lead concentration in bottled water. And 5% of Chicago households tested have a lead-in-water concentration at or above 15 ppb. If 10% or more of a jurisdiction's households test above 15 ppb, the water system must take immediate action for remediation to reduce lead contamination; and

WHEREAS, Black and brown Chicagoans are at the highest risk of exposure to elevated lead levels in drinking water, as people of color comprise the majority of residents in nine of the ten zip codes facing the greatest levels of lead contamination; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Water Management (DWM) is on track to replace at least 5,000 lead service lines in 2023—up from approximately 280 service line replacements in 2021 and 2022 combined; and

WHEREAS, DWM's free, off-site lead testing services require users to refrain from using their water for six hours before taking a water sample and wait six to eight weeks before receiving test results; and

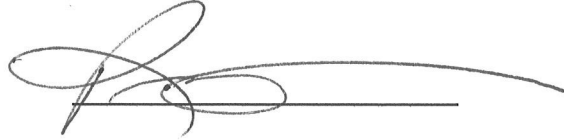
WHEREAS, Approximately 4,500 City-administered lead tests were completed from residential addresses between December 2021 and November 2022, an insufficient number to adequately assess the prevalence of lead contamination and to strategically target resources for mitigation; and

WHEREAS, Researchers from Northwestern University and STEMLoop have developed at-home lead testing technology that is accurate and that can be administered in under 30 minutes; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the City Council for the City of Chicago, do hereby call on the Committee on Health and Human Relations to hold a hearing on the development and distribution of at-home lead testing kits for use by Chicagoans.



Matthew J. Martin
Alderman, 47th Ward



Rossana Rodriguez Sanchez
Alderwoman, 33rd Ward