



Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3/4G

CHEVY CHASE, BARNABY WOODS, HAWTHORNE

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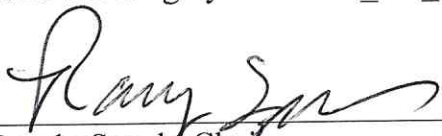
ANC3/4G Resolution Supporting
Funding for Lead Line Replacement
In the District's FY 2020 Budget

1. In April 2019, the District Office of Inspector General confirmed that “lead may exist in customers’ drinking water because of the system’s infrastructure” (<http://bit.ly/2Hf6GpL>). The report found that although DC Water has controls designed and implemented to ensure that the District’s drinking water meets federal standards for maximum permissible lead, there are still measurable amounts of lead in the District’s drinking water. DC Water and the Environmental Protection Agency agree that the most effective way to minimize exposure to lead is to remove the sources of lead.
2. Many homes in the District still connect to water mains using service lines that contain lead. DC Water, has been gradually replacing lead pipes, but it only replaces the portion of a lead water service line that runs through public property — not the portion of the line that runs through private property. Leaving part of the lead service line intact can increase the risk of lead in drinking water at that property.
3. The Office of the Inspector General found that “DC Water’s practice of performing partial pipe replacements does not mitigate customers’ long-term risk of lead exposure. Full lead pipe replacement is the ideal solution to minimize the risk of lead exposure.” Partial lead service line replacement is dangerous and can lead to acute, significantly elevated levels of lead in the water. Construction can disturb the pipe and release large flakes of lead, and over time, the pipes can

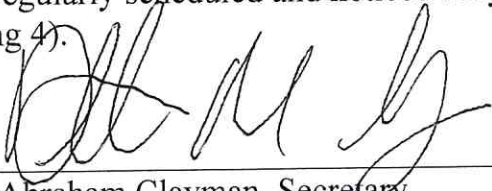
corrode at the joint, causing lead to leach into the water flowing to our taps at home at a higher rate than before construction. See <https://on.nrdc.org/2H93jjS>.

4. The American Academy of Pediatrics has found that “there is no safe level of blood lead concentration for children,” and “the best ‘treatment’ for lead poisoning is to prevent any exposure before it happens” (<http://bit.ly/2VYgZb5>). The World Health Organization concluded that “the consequences of brain injury from exposure to lead in early life are loss of intelligence, shortening of attention span, and disruption of behavior. Because the human brain has little capacity for repair, these effects are untreatable and irreversible. They cause diminution in brain function and reduction in achievement that last throughout life. . . . Lead also causes long-term harm in adults, including increased risk of high blood pressure and kidney damage. Exposure of pregnant women to high levels of lead can cause miscarriage, stillbirth, premature birth and low birth weight.” (<http://bit.ly/2LCp6pQ>).
5. The Council passed the “Lead Water Service Line Replacement and Disclosure Amendment Act of 2018” (law L22-0241, available at <http://bit.ly/2VBJnAv>) on December 4, 2018, and it became law on March 13, 2019. This statute aims to end DC Water’s current practice of partial lead water service line replacements. DC Water has replaced approximately 500 public lead service pipes annually for the past several years. At that pace, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer anticipates that a proactive replacement initiative that would also replace the water service line on private property where it is made of lead would cost approximately \$1 million in recurring funds per year.
6. The Council’s Committee on Transportation and the Environment, recommends increasing DC Water’s budget by \$1 million each year for the next four years for it to complete lead service line replacements on private property in accordance with the law.
7. If the District makes this investment, it could stop the practice of partial lead service line replacement and allow as many as 500 District households to get a full replacement of the lead pipes in their service lines. This is both the right thing to do and a practical investment. The Minnesota Department of Health estimates that replacing lead service lines yields a benefit of \$10 for every \$1 spent (<http://bit.ly/2VXKE43>).
8. In light of the need to eliminate District residents’ exposure to lead to the maximum extent possible, the Commission urges the Council to adopt the recommendation from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment and to include at least \$1 million on a recurring basis in the FY 2020 Budget Support Act.

Approved by ANC3/4G after a discussion at its regularly scheduled and noticed May 13, 2019 meeting by a vote of 4 to 0 (a quorum being 4).



Randy Speck, Chair



Abraham Clayman, Secretary