

**From:** Derek Beyer [<mailto:dbeyer22@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:46 AM  
**To:** Polanco, Joanna  
**Subject:** Re: Public Health And Safety Cmte Member list

Thank you for getting back to me so quickly. I did try to submit prior to 8AM but this is helpful. My comment is as follows:

"My name is Derek Beyer. I am a resident of D14 in a home with lead laterals as well as a member of the Get The Lead Out Coalition Steering Committee. On May 18, 2020 I sent this email to Chairwoman Dimitrijevic. It has been over a year and I believe the content of email has not been adequately addressed and the city continues to struggle with this serious issue. Years have passed without a real plan to solve this issue. It is critical we come up with a comprehensive, proactive plan to remove lead within a generation and stop the false narratives and speculation on which source of lead poisons us more.

Good afternoon Alderwoman Dimitrijevic,

Congratulations on your victory. I wanted to thank you for taking the time out to be a part of the Bay View Neighborhood Association virtual town hall and answering my questions on lead in water as well as TIFs.

I am sending this email not only as a constituent of District 14 with lead laterals in my home, but also a member of the steering committee for the Get The Lead Out Coalition. We are a group of committed volunteers who have come together to educate and organize around a simple mission statement: The comprehensive removal of lead within our community in a publicly funded, proactive manner within a generation. We do not discriminate between paint and lead laterals, but have chosen to specifically highlight the water issue as this risk has become more understood nationwide especially after the Flint crisis. There is no safe amount of lead and as Mayor Barrett has said, this is a racial justice issue that correlates to violence and educational outcomes in our city. While this issue is political in nature and I am openly critical of status quo politics in our city, we do not endorse candidates or have any other aim other than our mission statement. Over the past few years we have been happy to meet with members of the Common Council, Milwaukee County Board, local/national media and various NGOs in the hopes of educating and eventually coming together around a plan to remove lead from the city. Progress has been made in areas, but we still have no truly proactive plan as the current approach will take at least 75 years and it does not proactively address the issue in areas most affected first. We believe it will ultimately be people like yourself who will create and pass the solution this city needs.

We understand that there are many facets to this issue as well as some compelling, but antiquated talking points that do not line up with the latest science that seem to pit sources of lead (paint, pipes) against each other. We feel that is a false narrative and overly politicized at this point. Most parents we talk to do not care where it comes from. They want the risk removed. Personally it took months of education and listening to national experts for myself to feel

comfortable even discussing it. Your predecessor on the Public Health And Safety Committee as well former Common Council President Ashanti Hamilton have each given us the opportunity to give our testimony on the issue which is in the public record. We are always willing to share the information we have learned on this issue whether it be the history locally, our GIS maps which use state, Federal and local data or why lead laterals are truly a risk to public health here. As more cities wake up to this very real problem, it is our belief that the Freshwater Capitol Of The World should be a leader on this issue and so do many others around this city and in D14. In a statewide Marquette poll last year nearly 3/4 of those polled said they favor a publicly funded solution to this issue and folks like Governor Evers and Senator Larson have promoted the issue.

I thought your answer to my question was positive and reality based. We understand funds will be tight and it will take creativity to create a solution. We have some ideas for this, but surely there are even more. I thought the plastic bag tax you mentioned would be excellent and we are willing to fight to build the political capital needed for any plan that meets our mission statement. We have looked into the use of Environmental TIDs. The program could be used as a way to build of skilled union labor. Whatever the public solution is, I would also ask you to think of the cost of inaction. From a fiscal perspective there is a cost savings long term to fixing this public health crisis. Senator Larson has previously posted on social media about a 3-1 cost savings for removing lead as an example. From a moral perspective, we must always remind ourselves that lead disproportionately affects communities of color and children. To us, inaction or half measures are just not an option.

Below I have linked an important recent investigative report that is an example of the complexities of this issue. There is of course, much more evidence that shows the problem of these old lead laterals. If you have any questions for us or want to discuss the issue further in depth we are always open to share the research and information that informs us.

<https://www.apmreports.org/story/2020/05/04/epa-lead-pipes-drinking-water>

Thank you,

Derek Beyer  
Get The Lead Out Coalition "

Thank you again for your help.

Derek