



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor Peggy A. West, 1st Vice-Chair, 12th District

July 20, 2017

Alderman Robert G. Donovan
Chairman, Public Safety & Health Committee
Milwaukee City Hall, Room 205
200 East Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Alderman ~~Donovan~~ ^{Bdd},

I'm writing to you today to express my support for file 170131, a resolution relating to Health Department recommendations for avoiding lead exposure.

I support this resolution, which would increase communication & transparency about the hazards of lead to women of childbearing age and families with infants and children.

I'm concerned about the City of Milwaukee's management of the lead problem and the mixed messages I have heard coming from City employees about how to limit the potential for lead exposure. As a private citizen and as a professional who has had to deal with this issue in the workplace, my experience tells me that the City can and must do more to clearly, consistently, and effectively communicate to the public and businesses about this issue.

I have had personal experience with the lead issue, and therefore it concerns me greatly. My granddaughter's lead level has been high on several occasions, which is extremely upsetting. Like anyone concerned about the health and well-being of a family member, I would like to know how this happened and what we can do to make sure more children don't needlessly fall ill, but the City of Milwaukee has not been able to pinpoint the source of the lead now posing serious health risks to my granddaughter.

I have also experienced this issue in the workplace. The St. Vincent de Paul Meal Program that I manage had a "simple" meter replacement, which uncovered that our pipes from the street to the building were lead pipes. In this instance, the City gave me mixed messages about how to reduce the risk of lead exposure for our guests.

As you know, this issue has lasting implications, not only on our children's health, both physical and mental, but also on our entire community as we will spend years dealing with the long term health issues and related costs.

I urge you to support Alderman Zielinki's resolution and move swiftly to improve the City's public communication and transparency measures regarding the risks of lead to our community, especially to women and children.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Peggy A. West