

Press Release...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

For Immediate Release:

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FORD DEMANDS REMOVAL OF LEAD WATER PIPES ON WEST SIDE

CHICAGO- State Representative La Shawn K. Ford and the Illinois Environmental Council will be hosting a press conference and town hall meeting on the dangers of lead in Illinois drinking water. The town hall will be held on February 3, 2020 with the press conference starting at 6:00 p.m. in Chicago at 5437 W. Division Ave. A panel of subject matter experts will be present to share current information and answer questions for those in attendance.

Lead in drinking water is a problem that exists in Illinois and Chicago. According to a Curbed Chicago article, many areas found throughout Chicago's West Side have a high risk of lead exposure. The further west you go, the higher the risk. This is a major issue and is dangerous, especially to children. Rep. Ford is pushing for the removal of lead pipes in order to eliminate risks. Rep Ford filed HB3035 that would require municipalities including Chicago to come up with a plan to replace lead pipes.

"Evidence shows we have high levels of lead in Chicago's water supply and we need to replace lead service lines," said Ford. "A great deal of water is lost underground. Unsafe water supply is harmful to our families' health, and insufficient water supply adds an unnecessary financial burden on families across Illinois."

Between 2016-2019, the Chicago Department of Water Management conducted a study that tested before and after lead levels of 2,100 homes that either received meter installation or were located near a water main replacement. The study found 7.1% of homes tested for increased lead levels, above the U.S. EPA's 15ppb action level for lead in drinking water.

Iyana Simba, a clean water advocate from the Illinois Environmental Council, believes the threat of lead contamination in our drinking water is significantly higher in Chicago than almost anywhere else in the United States. "The upcoming townhall meeting is about taking that first step in combating this public health crisis," said Simba. "This will be accomplished by arming our communities with the knowledge they need to push for policy changes that will keep their families safe from toxic lead in our drinking water."

WHO: State Representative La Shawn K. Ford; Iyana Simba, Illinois Environmental Council; Pastor Scott Onque Advocacy/Policy Director of Faith in Place; Rebecca Raines, Environmental Justice, Chicago Westside NAACP; Jeremy Orr, Saff Attorney| Safe Water Initiative, NRDC

WHAT: Lead Water Poisoning Press Conference & Town Hall

WHEN: February 3, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: 5437 W. Division Ave. Chicago, IL 60651

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