

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, a federal drinking water rule required Chicago officials to warn approximately 900,000 renters, homeowners and landlords before November 16, 2024, that their drinking water is at risk of lead contamination; and

WHEREAS, as of early July, the City had only notified 7% of the people on its list that their water may be dangerously contaminated; and

WHEREAS, lead pipes are a serious health hazard and no other city in the nation is as reliant on the dangerous metal as Chicago, where around 412,000 of about 490,000 service lines are at least partly made of lead or may be contaminated with it; and

WHEREAS, the City doesn't plan to finish replacing them for another five decades – 30 years later than required by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, climate change could amplify the health risks of lead pipes, as soaring temperatures can increase the amount of lead dissolving into and contaminating drinking water; and

WHEREAS, service lines, which bring water from the street into homes and buildings, are just one of many plumbing fixtures – along with faucets, valves and internal plumbing – that can add lead to drinking water; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, do hereby call for a subject matter hearing in the Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy to address why the public has not been sent letters regarding the existence of lead service lines that supply water to their homes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that representatives from the Department of Water Management shall be invited to such hearing to provide answers to the delay in notifications to residents affected by lead pipes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gilbert Villegas', with a stylized flourish at the end.

GILBERT VILLEGAS
Alderman, 36th Ward