

April 18, 2018

**360** Request of Dee White to address Council regarding dangerous levels of lead in our drinking water (Communication)

My name is Dee White. I am sorry and sad to report that among all large cities in the US, Portland continues to lead with dangerous lead levels in our drinking water. We're number 1.

There is no safe level of lead. Lead is tasteless, odorless and invisible.

It is well documented how the effects of lead poisoning on babies and young children – even at low level exposure – are profound, and irreversible. And now, a new *Lancet* study estimates that more than 400,000 – or 18 percent – of all adult deaths in the US every year can be linked to chronic lead exposure.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has called for no more than 1 ppb in drinking water. The FDA requires bottled water to be below 5 ppb.

Lead tests <sup>in Portland</sup> from last October show the highest level detected was 59 ppb. The year before that it was 648 ppb. Portland Water Bureau has exceeded the EPA's limit twice during the past 18 months.

While Flint MI suffered acute lead exposure 4 years ago, Portlanders have endured chronic levels of lead in our water for over 25 years, with historic levels even higher.

We have a silent public health crisis going on here.

The federal Lead and Copper Rule requires water suppliers to fix corrosive water so that lead levels are minimized at the tap. This is your legal responsibility and not the homeowners, schools or businesses.

Over the past twenty years, you have known this but have not fixed it. Or, you simply don't know what you are doing.

We have a silent public health crisis going on here in Portland.

How are citizens supposed to know otherwise, if the Portland Water Bureau or the Portland Water commissioner, who is up for re-election, have not informed the public what we deserve to know?

What kind of hold do you guys have over the Oregon Health Authority that they have been so silent? I am beginning to question the relationship between the Oregon Health Authority's role as regulator of the Water bureau. Who is watching whom?

This is a failure of leadership at all levels: the city, the county, the state. But YOU all are the ones who are responsible.

I will end with a comment made by former Representative, now Senator, Tammy Duckworth at the 2016 House Oversight Committee on the Flint crisis:

WOULD YOU NOT RATHER HAVE JUMPED IN TOO SOON, DESPITE THE LAW, TO PROTECT THE CHILDREN OF FLINT AND BE HAULED INTO CONGRESS TO TESTIFY AND EXPLAIN ABOUT WHY YOU STEPPED IN TOO QUICKLY TO SAFEGUARD HEALTH AS OPPOSED TO WHY YOU DIDN'T ACT SOON ENOUGH?

**Davis, Meghaan**

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**From:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 07, 2018 2:43 PM  
**To:** Davis, Meghaan  
**Subject:** FW: Request for communication

Meghaan,

Please let Dee know what the next available date is for Communication.

Thank you,  
Karla  
Karla Moore-Love | Council Clerk  
Office of the City Auditor | 131/130  
503.823.4086

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**From:** Dee White [mailto:deewhite1@mindspring.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 07, 2018 1:03 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov>  
**Subject:** Request for communication

Hi Karla,

I would like to request a communication with council. I will not be available until the end of February, beginning of March, but I understand it's over a month out anyway 😊

Subject: Request of Dee White to address council regarding dangerous levels of lead in our drinking water

Thank you so much for your help,  
Dee White

3836 SE 49<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Portland 97206  
503-775-2909

## Davis, Meghaan

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**From:** Dee White <deewhite1@mindspring.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2018 11:45 AM  
**To:** Davis, Meghaan  
**Subject:** RE: Request for communication

Yes, please give me a slot on the 18<sup>th</sup>.  
Thank you, Dee White

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**From:** Davis, Meghaan [mailto:[Meghaan.Davis@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Meghaan.Davis@portlandoregon.gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2018 8:28 AM  
**To:** Dee White  
**Subject:** RE: Request for communication

Hi Dee,

I am sorry, but the 11<sup>th</sup> is all filled up, the next slots we have available is the 18<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Will either of those work for you?

Thank you,

Meghaan Davis  
OSS II | Office of the City Auditor  
The City of Portland, Oregon  
1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Room 130  
Portland, OR 97204-1987  
T: (503) 823.0918  
F: (503) 823.4571  
[Meghaan.davis@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Meghaan.davis@portlandoregon.gov)

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

**From:** Dee White [mailto:[deewhite1@mindspring.com](mailto:deewhite1@mindspring.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 5:58 PM  
**To:** Davis, Meghaan <[Meghaan.Davis@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Meghaan.Davis@portlandoregon.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request for communication

Dear Meghaan,  
I am sorry for the late reply, I have been out of town. Is April 11 still available? Please confirm. Thank you.

Dee White

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**From:** Davis, Meghaan [mailto:[Meghaan.Davis@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Meghaan.Davis@portlandoregon.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 08, 2018 11:15 AM

**To:** [deewhite1@mindspring.com](mailto:deewhite1@mindspring.com)  
**Subject:** Request for communication

Hi Dee,

We received your request to get on the council calendar for a communication slot, so far we have three dates available in April. Those dates are April 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>.

Please let me know which of those dates work best for you so I can pencil you in.

Thank you,

Meghaan Davis  
OSS II | Office of the City Auditor  
The City of Portland, Oregon  
1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Room 130  
Portland, OR 97204-1987  
T: (503) 823.0918  
F: (503) 823.4571  
[Meghaan.davis@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Meghaan.davis@portlandoregon.gov)



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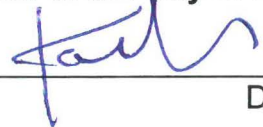
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APR 18 2018

PLACED ON FILE

Filed APR 10 2018

**MARY HULL CABALLERO**  
Auditor of the City of Portland

By  Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		