

January 9, 2019

14 Request of Dee White to address Council regarding lead in our drinking water, cryptosporidium, and the public trust (Communication)

My name is Dee White. I am grateful to be among this amazing group of folks here this morning for communications; Star, Mimi, Steven and Charles. Thank you all for your tireless, unpaid work for Portland's most vulnerable.

For far too long, I've come before you to protest your misguided drinking water policy. Beginning in 2013, our former Water Commissioner perpetuated a culture of mis-management at the water bureau that has not protected public health. Water Bureau directors have not done their job delivering safe drinking water to many of their 1 million customers in the region.

Here are some facts:

There is no safe level of lead. It's a potent neurotoxin that is especially harmful to pregnant women, newborns, and young children. You cannot see, taste or smell lead in water.

Here are more facts:

The more corrosive the source water, the more lead leaches into drinking water.

Portland officials have long known Bull Run water is corrosive and further, that inadequate treatment would cause higher levels of lead in our drinking water.

The result? Portland continues to have the highest levels of lead among all large cities in the US, not just Western cities

You haven't followed the federal Safe Drinking Water Act for 27 years and you insist our water is safe to drink despite the threat of this profound neurotoxin. At the same time, the near zero potential of cryptosporidium sickness has been escalated to such a serious health threat that a half-billion dollar filtration treatment plant is being sold to an unwitting public.

Last year, former Commissioner Saltzman opined that shutting off water due to unpaid water bills is a form of child abuse. Let me add this: isn't it child abuse to improperly *treat these children's water*?

You could immediately protect the vulnerable with free filters, but instead you downplay the threat and blame customer plumbing.

As elected officials, what you continue to do today is reward engineering and construction corporations and your own financial interests over the public health and the common good and this --- mayor and commissioners -- is a betrayal of the public trust at its essence.

## Davis, Meghaan

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**From:** Dee White <deewhite1@mindspring.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 7, 2018 12:11 PM  
**To:** Davis, Meghaan  
**Subject:** January 9 communication subject/topic

Hi Meghaan,

The subject for my scheduled communication to council on Jan. 9, 2019 will be:

Request of Dee White to address Council regarding lead in our drinking water, cryptosporidium, and the public trust.

Can you please tell me if the February slots are available yet and if yes, is there a date open towards the end of Feb?

Thank you and hope you have a nice weekend!

Dee White

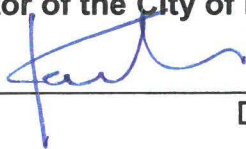
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JAN 09 2019

PLACED ON FILE

Filed DEC 31 2018

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

By  Deputy

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