

From: [Dee White](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: [User Approved] testimony for agenda item 452 from portland advocates for lead-free drinking water
Date: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 7:35:58 AM
Attachments: [testimony portland advocates for lead-free drinking water City of Portland and Portland Water Budget Rate Hearing May 18 2022.pdf](#)

Testimony attached and below. Thanks so much, Dee White Portland Advocates for Lead-free Drinking Water

452

[Authorize the rates and charges for water and water-related services beginning July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023 and fix an effective date](#) (Ordinance)

Introduced by Commissioner Mingus Mapps

Bureau Water

Second reading agenda item 423.

Presented as oral testimony 5-18-2022 Worth watching the entire presentation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jNgT7dPuC4>

May 18, 2022

Hello. My name is Dee White. I am speaking on behalf of Portland Advocates for Lead-free Drinking Water.

Today I'd like to ask Commissioner Mapps and Water Bureau Director Solmer: Why is a comprehensive free water filters program NOT in this budget? In November, testing showed Portland's lead levels were the highest they had been in two decades. Example: Seattle lead testing results were 2 ppb. Portland's? 21 PPB.

Again, this happened in November, two months before the water bureau started work on their eye-popping budget proposal and ongoing regressive rate increase.

Why aren't the vulnerable being protected? At the very least, Portland's vulnerable, including pregnant women, babies, children, low-income, should be getting free filters until the water bureau does its job and drastically minimizes lead at everyone's taps.

According to the EPA, we know now that 80-90% of an infant's lead exposure can come from drinking water, and measurable health impacts are found ingesting water with lead levels averaging 3-5 ppb for children in general, along with adult health effects. Again, in November, the water bureau rang in at 21 ppb.

It is outrageous that filters are not being widely distributed throughout the city as

we also know that the water bureau's lead crisis is system wide – throughout the city. Denver, Chicago, Newark, Pittsburg – all have a free filters program going on as I speak while they are implementing treatment and replacing pipes. What's wrong with Portland? How can this NOT be happening here?

So again, today I'd like to ask Commissioner Mapps and Water Bureau Director Solmer two important and urgent questions: Why isn't a comprehensive free water filter program in this budget and why wasn't a comprehensive free water filter program implemented and disseminated immediately after this acute lead problem presented itself in November?

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From: [Dee White](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: [User Approved] testimony agenda item 452 Lead concentrations in drinking water apples to apples comparison
Dee White
Date: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 8:04:51 AM
Attachments: [2021 Lead in drinking water municipal concentration levels - Sheet1.pdf](#)

Testimony for Portland Water Bureau rate and budget ordinance ATTACHED

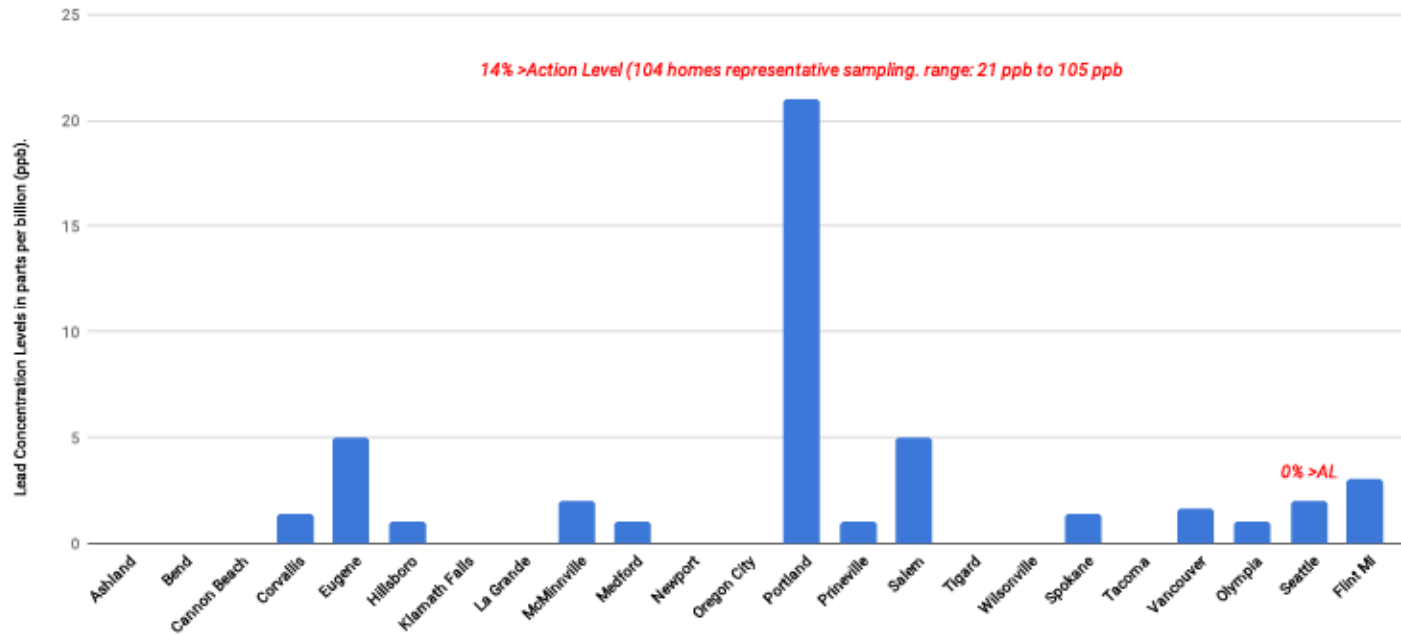
Thanks Dee White
Portland Advocates for Lead-free Drinking Water

452

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Ashland	0
Bend	0
Cannon Beach	0
Corvallis	1.4
Eugene	5
Hillsboro	1
Klamath Falls	0
La Grande	0
McMinnville	2
Medford	1
Newport	0
Oregon City	0
Portland	21
Prineville	1
Salem	5
Tigard	0
Wilsonville	0
Spokane	1.4
Tacoma	0
Vancouver	1.6
Olympia	1
Seattle	2
Flint MI	3

Source - 2021 annual WQ Reports/recent monitoring : An apples to apples comparison of LEAD CONCENTRATION IN DRINKING WATER



City Council Meeting - Wednesday May 18, 2022 2:00 p.m.

Agenda No.	First Name	Last Name
423	Dee	White