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KHALIF J. RAINEY
ALDERMAN, 7TH DISTRICT

Key details missing from the Mayor's account of lead testing crisis

Statement of Alderman Khalif J. Rainey January 31, 2018

As Mayor Barrett tries to control the public relations damage from the Health Department notification debacle involving families whose children tested positive for elevated lead levels in their blood, there are some critical details that he is not sharing with members of the Common Council.

Specifically, he has not provided me with information about how many 7th District residents are affected by the notification errors, and where in the district they live. This is critically important information that I would like to have as soon as possible. If I know where these affected constituents are in my district, then I can help them and be a positive change agent on their behalf.

By not knowing I feel I am being shut out and kept in the dark. It's an unfortunate crisis that they (families) didn't ask for, and that the Mayor claims he knew nothing about until reports started hitting the news media.

I want to know if these families live in the same neighborhoods that the U.S. Postal Service wanted to abandon recently, or if they reside in the same neighborhoods and ZIP codes hardest hit by poverty, joblessness and other reasons for lost hope.

I deserve to know as soon as possible where in my district the affected constituents are, and my constituents deserve many more answers from the Mayor about this troubling episode that occurred under his watch.

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