



CITY OF MILWAUKEE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Enough is enough with MHD lead program mistakes

Joint statement from members of the Milwaukee Common Council: Alderwoman Marina Dimitrijevic, Alderman Cavalier Johnson, Alderman José G. Pérez, and Alderwoman JoCasta Zamarripa

Because of continued mistakes investigating, assessing and following through on elevated blood lead levels, children continue to be poisoned in Milwaukee. The result of this Bay View case (as confirmed by the administration) being mishandled has hurt children and could have been prevented.

Unfortunately this is not an isolated incident and we call for a complete audit of every elevated blood lead level case we have at the city to ensure that every Milwaukeean is safe. In addition, we must reevaluate the city's response to lead exposure and seek to prevent poisoning rather than respond to it. Now is the time to reimagine and rebuild a new system that doesn't depend on children's blood as the main testing mechanism.

This (lead exposure) has been our city's pandemic long before COVID -19 and we need to dedicate the same urgency and resources to eliminating it.

We owe that to our children, our families, and every resident of Milwaukee.