

February 14, 2023

To: Mayor Patrick Madden and the Troy City Council

Re: Protect Kids in Troy from Lead Poisoning Now

Dear Mayor Madden and Troy City Council members,

We are writing to you about Troy's lead poisoning crisis. We are Troy residents, mothers and fathers, supportive local organizations, and many others who care deeply about the health and safety of our families, neighbors, and the over 1,000 lead-poisoned children in the city.

Troy has a lead in drinking water problem. We are demanding that you take more aggressive action to ensure that every person in Troy has clean, lead-free water and to put the city on a path to 100% lead pipe replacement. We urge you to commit to the following **Get the Lead Out Platform**:

1. Present a plan to swiftly spend current lead pipe replacement grant funding. In line with these [Principles of Lead Pipe Replacement](#), do not place any costs on homeowners or tenants. Prioritize replacements for families with lead-poisoned or young children and in low-income neighborhoods;
2. Establish a local revenue stream for lead pipe replacement, in addition to using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, and commit to a timetable for removing all of these dangerous pipes. Use the City of Albany as a model, which intends to replace all lead pipes in 10 years and has set aside money specifically to do so;
3. Provide free water filters to every home with a lead pipe as those residents wait for a replacement, so they are protected from lead exposure when they turn on the tap;
4. Make public all communications about the current lead pipe replacement grant funding between city staff and other city, county, and state officials;
5. Investigate whether Troy is fully complying with actions required by the US EPA following the city's exceedance of the action level for lead in drinking water;
6. Release a list of state and federal funding that the city intends to apply for or has already applied for to accelerate lead pipe replacement;
7. Pass a resolution urging Governor Hochul and the State Legislature to appropriate and allocate more state funding for lead pipe replacement;
8. Do NOT establish a task force on lead poisoning. Task forces slow progress and sap energy from the real work needed to eliminate this threat to public health. Instead, identify a point-person and team who will work on this issue full-time; and
9. Create and regularly update a website to track progress with handing out filters, replacing lead pipes, applying for new funds, and more. List the full-time point-person and team for residents with questions.

At the Troy City Council meeting on February 2, we raised the alarm that the city has for 5 years failed to spend a \$516,000 grant from the NYS Department of Health (DOH) to replace lead pipes. We also described how Mayor Madden and Superintendent of Public Utilities Wheland had ignored at least one resident who had pleaded for help to remove her lead pipe and safeguard the health of her young children. Council President Mantello had also proved unresponsive to a recent email from this resident.

But after listening to heartbreaking stories about residents' exposure to dangerous levels of lead in drinking water and experience raising lead-poisoned children, Mayor Madden made statements at the end of the meeting downplaying the urgency of problem and dismissing residents asking important questions

about why the city had not acted years ago to protect people from lead hazards. The Mayor's comments were outrageous.

In the week since that Council meeting, the Mayor and Superintendent have continued to make unacceptable comments. They have tried to deflect blame for the city's failures by [faulting](#) homeowners for not identifying lead pipes themselves, and they have [implied](#) that replacing no lead pipes is better than beginning to replace some lead pipes.

The truth is that there is no good reason why the city should not have spent 100% of its lead pipe replacement funding by now, as other grant recipients like Albany and Schenectady had done years ago. It is time for Mayor Madden and his administration to accept responsibility for that and shift their full attention to getting the lead out of Troy's drinking water.

On February 8, the Times Union [reported](#) that council leaders are supportive of tapping into Troy's remaining \$4 million of ARPA funds to boost funding available for lead pipe replacements. While this would be an important and welcome step, it would still only make a dent in the need to replace Troy's estimated 14,000 lead pipes, with an estimated price tag of \$70 million.

The **Get the Lead Out Platform** that we listed above is needed in addition to the use of ARPA money. Nothing less than a comprehensive strategy to eliminate the lead in Troy's drinking water will be adequate to protect people's health from this deadly neurotoxin. We hope to hear updates on each of our platform requests at the Utility Committee meeting this Thursday. The voices of Troy residents should no longer be ignored on this important issue.

Sincerely,

**Supportive Organizations (in alphabetical order):**

Alexis Goldsmith  
**Beyond Plastics**

Rebecca Garrard  
**Citizen Action**

Bobbi Wilding  
**Clean+Healthy**

Chris Lake  
**Community for a Cause**

Marketa Edwards  
**The Community Rising Project**

Liz Moran  
**Earthjustice**

Rob Hayes  
**Environmental Advocates NY**

Sarah Bachinger  
**Friends of the Mahicantuck**

Dierdre Shea  
**Fun Stuff Design**

Bob Blackmon, Linda OMalley, Daquetta Jones,  
Robert Martiniano, Noreen McKee, and David  
Bissember  
**Justice Center of Rensselaer County**

Rev. West McNeill  
**Labor-Religion Coalition of NYS**

Kathleen A Curtis  
**Moms for a Nontoxic New York**

Xavier Coughlin, MD and Jane Luceno  
**People's Health Sanctuary**

Shanice Fleming  
**Queenz Cut Flower Farm**

Adrian Alicea Roman  
**RPI RA Union**

Aileen Javier  
**The Sanctuary for Independent Media**

Greg Campbell-Cohen  
**TIMBER**

Sean Collins  
**Troy Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO**

Renee Rhodes  
**Troy Democratic Socialists of America**

Renee Powell  
**NAACP Troy Branch #2182**

Hon. Gabriella A. Romero  
**Albany Common Councilmember, 6th Ward**

**Supportive Troy Residents (including parents and business owners, in alphabetical order):**

Emily Abramson  
Jay Alcumbrac  
Rhiannon Antico  
Jeffrey Arias  
Deyva Arthur  
Kelly Artis  
David Banks  
Aidan Bardos  
Carolyn Bardos  
Christopher Bassett  
Jenn Baumstein  
Katherine Bell  
Luz Marquez Benbow  
Jessica Bennett  
William Bornstein  
Annee Borthwick  
Melissa Bromley  
Emily Brown  
Simon Burke-Lipiczky  
Crystal Burnham  
Stephanie Caragliano  
Jennifer Cardinal  
Laura M Cardwell  
Rachel Carter  
Christopher Caulfield  
Justin Cirigliano  
Jess Cloutier  
Dr. Brandon Costelloe-Kuehn  
Nailah Coley  
Colie Collen  
Alanna Costelloe-Kuehn  
Emily Coopet  
Shannon Curran-Trzepacz  
Victor Davidson  
Holley Davis  
Skye Day

Diane Deas  
Sophia DeVito  
Sanjana Dhulipalla  
Kristoph DiMaria  
Noelle Dommasch  
Rhea Drysdale  
Sasha Dubodel  
Emily Eller  
Emily Ellis  
Jona Favreau  
Colette Fishkin  
Meghan Fitzgerald  
Lila Flanagan  
Wayne Foy  
Lori Friday  
Kourtney Gallagher  
Michael Gardner  
Rosaly German  
Myron Getman  
Taylor Gillis  
Lisa Graham  
Daniel Graham  
Nicole Gramenides  
Amanda Gray  
Christian Grigoraskos  
Zachary Guthrie  
Alexander Hanse  
Sina Basila Hickey  
Sonya Hovsepian  
Ellie Irons  
Azura Iversen-Keahi  
Aileen Javier  
Julia Kelly  
Danny Killion  
Dr. Abby Kinchy  
Nancy Klepsch

Celia Kutz  
Arslan Lau  
Isabella Legovich  
Erin Lennox  
Jack Letourneau  
Lily Lothrop  
Mark Looney  
Andrew Lynn  
Maricate Mangan  
Jess Maxwell  
Nora McDowell  
Desirea McKee  
Sylva Menard  
Quinn Miller  
DaVania Mitchell  
Loretta Montgomery, PE  
Graciela Monroy  
Daniel Morrissey  
Adam Morrow  
Gwen Moyer  
Michele Murray  
Abigail Murray  
Avi Nagel  
Caroline Nagy  
Lyd Nenno  
Samantha Neumann  
Kamilia Nicolas  
Bug Nichols  
Anthony Olivares  
Alissa Ouderkirk  
Emily Pallas  
Sarah Parks  
Ashley Parsley  
Katherine Parsley  
Lawrence J Parsley Jr, MD  
Sara Paupini  
Adam Pelletier  
Ariela Perez-Wallach  
Terra Pfund

Kelsey Poore  
Anita Prabhakar  
Elizabeth Press  
H. David Previtali  
Hannah L Price  
Kevin Quinde  
James Dylan Rees  
Hannah Riegel  
Renee Rhodes  
Victoria Robert  
Laura Ryder  
Ashley Saupp  
Elizabeth Schatz  
Eloise Schieferdecker  
Nicholas Schrader  
Jennifer Schulaner  
Nina Schwartzman  
Christopher Scully  
Dara Silbermann  
Abigail Simkovic  
Cameron Smith  
Emma Soto  
Gia Sprouse  
Monica J Staats  
Beth Steckley  
Sophia Turnbow  
Eleanor Tyner  
Audrey Vallee  
Rafael Varela  
Aaron J. Vera, P.E.  
Emily A. Wager  
Lorelei Wagner  
Ian A Walkinshaw  
Ashley Whitaker  
Amanda Wild  
Aliana Wilson  
Yi Zhou

**Supportive Former Troy Residents and NYS Residents (in alphabetical order):**

Jennifer Becker  
Stephanie Collins  
Angela Cortina  
K Michelle Doyle  
Kayla Hartman

Line Kristine Henriksen  
Jessica Hoffman  
Laura Rabinow  
Mark Russo  
Pam Sweig