



# City of Hamtramck

3401 Evaline Street Hamtramck, Michigan 48212

Telephone 313-800-5233

October 17, 2018

Dear Residents and Businesses in Hamtramck:

On a regular basis the City collects samples of tap water inside of homes in Hamtramck to test for lead and copper. As a result of our required testing, two of the five required test samples came back with levels that reached "Action Level" for lead, 15 parts per billion (ppb), which is not a health-based standard, but a level that triggers additional sampling and requires education for city water customers. Upon receiving this information, we immediately took action by assembling a rapid response team consisting of city administration who along with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), has taken the following initial steps:

- Convened telephone conference calls between Hamtramck and MDEQ and other personnel involved with water quality
- Immediately delivered bottled water to the customers who tested at the action level
- Met with the rapid response team to review information that will enable the City to respond accurately and quickly to customers
- Developed and prepared a public advisory to inform Hamtramck water customers of the details of water testing. The public advisory will be published in various media outlets. Outreach will include The Review, The Michigan Chronicle, The Arab-American News, The Yemeni American, our City website, Facebook page, city hall bulletin board, water department material handout, and the information table at city hall.
- Developed a frequently asked question (FAQ) sheet with answers that will inform water customers of the action level and the action to be taken by our rapid response team.

We take this matter very seriously. Not only will we meet the requirements, we intend to meet or exceed any requirement set forth by the Department of Environmental Quality including:

- By November 30<sup>th</sup>, an educational letter will be mailed to every water customer in the City of Hamtramck. It will include the public advisory and comprehensive materials educating customers about the risk of lead in drinking water. We expect to have that ready and mailed long before the required date.
- Coordinating water quality parameter (WQP) samples and conducting source water monitoring with Great Lakes Water Authority
- In 2019, the City will be required to test additional customers; 60 sites from January-June and 60 sites from July-December
- In 2019, the City will be required to replace 7% of our known lead service lines; beginning in 2021 the City along with all municipalities in Michigan, will be required to replace an additional 5% per year for 20 years.
- Offering free testing for any customer who wants to have their tap water tested
- Offering free inspection for any customer who wants to have their service line inspected
- Providing water filters or bottled drinking water to any customer whose water tests above the mandated limits
- Providing educational materials in the quarterly city newsletter and with each utility bill
- Providing one point of contact and one phone number for all incoming calls with a goal to have a person answer the call or return a phone call within 24 hours

Please know that administration is doing everything possible to have a clear message for our water customers who are--our residents--our businesses--our families--and our friends--and will do everything we can to handle this both professionally and personally for our residents. The health and safety of our residents will always be of the highest priority and utmost concern.