



Kenosha Water Utility kicks off lead service replacement program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 12, 2018

For further information contact:

Kris Kochman

Community Relations Liaison

City of Kenosha

262-653-4177

[kkochman@kenosha.org](mailto:kkochman@kenosha.org)

KENOSHA – Kenosha residents will be the first in the state to benefit from a new grant and loan program through the Kenosha Water Utility to replace lead service lines. On Sept. 18, a local plumbing contractor is scheduled to replace a leaking lead pipe entering a home occupied by a couple and a young child. To mark the occasion, the KWU will host a press conference beginning at 11 a.m. outside the home, 4703 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. Among those speaking will be: Mayor John Antaramian, Senator Robert Wirth, Representative Peter Barca, KWU General Manager Ed St. Peter, Alderman David Bogdala (Chairman of the Board of Water Commissioners), Public Service Commission chairman Lon Roberts and Representative Jeremy Thiesfeldt.

Mayor Antaramian said, “Thank you to Senator Robert Cowles and Representative Jeremy Thiesfeldt as sponsors of this legislation and to all of the legislators who unanimously approved the bill. I am also proud to say that Kenosha is the first city in the state to implement this program. We have a motto – “Let’s Get the Lead Out!””

The Kenosha Water Utility set up the grant and loan system to help homeowners with the high cost of replacing the lead water service lines (laterals). Homeowners are responsible for the laterals from their homes to the property line, while the city maintains the pipes from the property line to the water main.

St. Peter proposed the grant and loan system -- which was first approved by the city’s Board of Water Commissioners and the Common Council – before receiving approval from the Public Service Commission. The system allows the utility to provide grants of 50 percent, combined with a 10-year, low-interest loan that can be placed on property owners’ tax bills.

“Our number one priority is to provide our customers with safe and clean drinking water and this program will help us partner with those affected homeowners to ensure that happens,” said Bogdala, Chairman of the Board of Water Commissioners.