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## **NAACP SUPPORTS THE GREEN NEW DEAL FOR A LEAD-FREE DC TO ACCELERATE LEAD PIPE REPLACEMENT**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — NAACP DC Branch supports the reintroduction of the *Green New Deal for a Lead-Free DC* and the *Lead-Free DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2023* accelerating lead pipe replacement in DC. Ward 4 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George has reintroduced the Green New Deal for a Lead-Free DC to accelerate the removal of hazardous lead water service lines on public and private land in DC, while also expanding the District’s lead remediation specialist workforce with a new job training program. Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto has also introduced a similar bill addressing lead service line replacement and increasing access to water filters for families.

The NAACP is the nation’s oldest and largest civil rights organization, advocating to advance racial equity, housing justice and environmental justice through political, educational and economic empowerment. The NAACP mobilizes over 3 million members and 2,000 units nationwide. The NAACP DC Branch represents members, stakeholders and partners that are voting residents across all 8 wards of the District of Columbia. Between 2021 and 2022, NAACP has delivered over 20 testimonies across budget, performance oversight and legislative hearings urging DC Council members to take action on various civil rights and racial justice issues including housing, education, health, environment and public safety. The NAACP advocates for civil rights and environmental justice, while advancing diversity, equity and inclusion across DC. We fight for the policies and budget allocation needed to rectify these impacts. Environmental and climate justice is a civil rights issue.

Lead, water, and air pollution are three of the most critical public health issues impacting the lives of Black DC residents. Lead is an environmental toxin, which disproportionately impacts lower-income, Black people in DC. Indeed, not all residents of the District are equally impacted by lead exposure and environmental toxins—race, class, income, healthcare access, and other forms of privilege influence the health impacts of these toxins. The presence of lead and other environmental contaminants in our water, food, and air is unacceptable, and requires immediate legislative, policy and budgetary action.

***Akosua Ali, NAACP DC Branch President, stated, “Lead exposure and other environmental toxins are a public health threat. While car-jackings and increased violence are at the fore-front of public safety concerns, poverty, public health and environmental toxins are a root-case jeopardizing the public-safety of our communities. Lead exposure is a dangerous, silent killer, disproportionately impacting the neurological and reproductive health of Black communities for generations. This legislation is an important step towards reducing Lead Exposure and realizing a healthier future.”***

For more information, please email [naacp@naacpdc.org](mailto:naacp@naacpdc.org)

#### ABOUT NAACP:

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation’s oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are premier advocates for civil rights in their communities. The mission of NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic quality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.