

bipartisan task force charged with reviewing all of the city, state and federal government actions and recommending changes looking forward that can address potential challenges in Flint and other cities.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Rick Pluta [<mailto:rickp@mprn.org>]

Sent: Friday, December 18, 2015 2:57 PM

To: Murray, David (GOV) <MurrayD1@michigan.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Michigan Legislative Black Caucus Calls For A State of Emergency In Flint

>>> Rosemary Jones <RJones@house.mi.gov> 12/18/2015 11:21 AM >>>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, December 18, 2015

Contact: Rep. Sheldon Neeley

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Michigan Legislative Black Caucus Calls For A State of Emergency In Flint MLBC urges Gov. Snyder to act on water crisis in city LANSING - The Michigan Legislative Black Caucus (MLBC) today joined the City of Flint, and urged Gov. Rick Snyder to issue a State of Emergency to address the continuing health concerns caused by the increased lead levels in their water.

The MLBC request comes on the heels of the issuance of a State of Emergency declaration by Flint Mayor Karen Weaver, and the Flint City Council.

Although Flint has ceased pulling water from the Flint River, the emergency is in response to continuing reports and studies that indicate

the presence of coliform bacteria and high levels of lead in the city's

drinking water. Blood samples of Genesee County children - taken before

and after the city ended its contract with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) and began using Flint River water - showed

that the number of Flint children with elevated blood-lead levels had jumped from 2.1 percent to 4 percent. Additional tests have disclosed that the blood-lead levels of children living in the poorest Flint neighborhoods have jumped from 2.5 percent to 6.3 percent.

It has been scientifically proven that even low lead levels can affect many different parts of the body. Lead can especially affect a child's mental development, behavior, ability to pay attention, hearing, IQ, kidneys and body growth.

State Rep. Sheldon Neeley (D-Flint), first vice chairman of the MLBC, is working with local, state and federal officials to find solutions and

resources. A state-declared health emergency will allow the city to access federal funding.

"Issuing a health emergency is the most responsible thing to do," Neeley said. "This is a public health crisis, and our children are most

at risk. We urge Gov. Snyder to issue the State of Emergency so the city

of Flint can get immediate monetary relief."

"Water is a basic human right," state Rep. LaTanya Garrett (D-Detroit) said. "Many of our urban communities have succumb to various water issues. We have a due diligence to work tirelessly to provide relief to

our citizens."

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