



# The City of Lorain, Ohio

Jack W. Bradley

Mayor

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Lorain, Ohio] – The City of Lorain has been awarded \$479,660 towards lead water service line replacements from the Ohio EPA through the Drinking Water Assistance Fund (DWAF). Ohio EPA is offering up to \$1 million in principal forgiveness for complete lead service line replacements to communities with lead service line replacement programs which address both public and private side lead service line replacements. The City will use \$479,660 on removing lead service lines as part of the Red Hill Water Main Improvement project. This project will replace up to 513 public side lead service lines and up to 413 private side lead service lines. The project will start in March of this year and last until the fall of 2022. The City intends to apply for additional loan money that will be used on a future lead service line replacement projects.

Approximately 6.1 million homes across the country receive drinking water through lead pipes, known as lead service lines (LSL). Since 2017, in response to concerns about lead in drinking water, Ohio EPA's DWAF program has provided no interest financing for LSL replacement. For program years 2021 and 2022, eligible LSL replacement projects will receive a one-time allocation up to \$20 million in principal forgiveness funding. Principal forgiveness is grant-like funding referred to the principal portion of a loan which does not require repayment.

Part of the mission of the Lorain Utilities Department is to provide safe, high quality drinking water to all our citizens. To achieve this mission, the Utilities Department has set a yearly goal to replace as many lead service lines as possible. The first step in this goal is the Redhill Water Main Improvement project.