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Mayors Commission on Water Equity Moves Forward with New Leadership

The Cities Initiative's Mayors Commission on Water Equity continues to develop recommendations for strengthening water equity in Great Lakes cities. The Commission is focusing on needs in four key areas: lead contamination, water affordability, water workforce development and urban flooding.

On April 29 the Commission held a briefing for Congressional leaders outlining specific funding requests to address water equity needs in Great Lakes cities. Speaking for the Commission, Flint Mayor Sheldon Neeley, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan emphasized the opportunity to address critical water equity challenges in the infrastructure package being assembled in Congress. The funding requests were transmitted to key Congressional committees and the Great Lakes delegation.

In May the Commission will move forward under new leadership. Current chair Sam Cunningham is ending his term as mayor of Waukegan in April. Pending board approval, Zion, Ill. Mayor Billy McKinney will take over as chair of the Commission. In his last meeting as chair, Mayor Cunningham expressed his gratitude to the other members and urged the Commission to put forth a robust policy agenda to help cities address water equity needs facing their constituents.