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Community Data Health Initiative announces “Top 12 AAMA Cities to Watch on Environmental Health”

WASHINGTON, DC – The Community Data Health Initiative (CDHI) is proud to congratulate twelve cities for their exceptional work addressing air quality, extreme heat, and lead service line replacement in their communities. Cities are on the front lines of protecting residents from environmental health threats. To commend city leaders creating healthier communities, CDHI partnered with the African American Mayors Association to launch the “Top 12 AAMA Cities to Watch on Environmental Health” initiative.

AAMA mayors submitted short videos describing programs, policies, and partnerships underway or about to begin that are transforming their cities’ approach to environmental health. CDHI is pleased to announce the 2026 CDHI Top 12 AAMA Cities to Watch on Environmental Health:

Air Quality

Little Rock, AR – Mayor Frank Scott, Jr.
Jonesboro, GA – Mayor Donya L. Sartor
Haynesville, LA – Mayor Roderick D. Hampton
Beverly Hills, MO – Mayor Brian K. Jackson

Extreme Heat

Orange County, FL – Mayor Jerry L. Demings
Savannah, GA – Mayor Van R. Johnson II
Lawrence, IN – Mayor Deb Witfield
Rankin, PA – Mayor Joelisa McDonald
Alexandria, VA – Mayor Alyia Gaskins

Lead Service Line Replacement

East Point, GA – Mayor Keisha Chapman
Inkster, MI – Mayor Byron H. Nolen
Mt. Vernon, NY – Mayor Shawyn Patterson Howard

CDHI also wishes to recognize Washington, D.C., Baltimore, MD, and Detroit, MI for their role as pilot cities focused on addressing environmental harms. Their commitment to improving

environmental health in their communities helped pave the way for the expansion of this initiative.

The Top 12 Cities will be featured in an ongoing national CDHI campaign spotlighting environmental health leadership, and have opportunities to share their city's story with mayors around the country.

Congratulations to these twelve mayors for their outstanding work advancing environmental health in their communities!

About CDHI

The Community Data Health Initiative (CDHI) is a collaboration between the Data-Smart City Solutions program at the Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard University, the Environmental Defense Fund, the African American Mayors Association, and Meharry Medical College. Our work is generously supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Kresge Foundation.