

Federal judge denies emergency injunction to bring water PODs back to Flint

By Annie Pierre | April 20, 2018



ANN ARBOR (WJRT) - Allen Bryant's January testing at his home on Oren Avenue in Flint shows 1330 parts per billion. That's more than 85 times the federal action level for lead.

"The pipes, they were smelling funny, bad, brown," he said. "The pipes started corroding, the hot water heater was new and next thing you know it was ate up. It had ate right through the metal."

His attorney Hunter Shkolnik, of the Napoli Shkolnik firm based in New York, used that information in court Friday to ask a judge to immediately re-open the state-run water PODs in Flint.

"The court took this into consideration. She felt that Mr. Bryant would not benefit from a temporary injunction at this time," he explained.

Federal Judge Judy Levy said she can't force the state to bring water back to a whole city on one person's complaint.

Plus, because Bryant couldn't make it, she called him on the phone from the courtroom. In their conversation, she learned he was not in dire need of bottled water because he hasn't lived in the Oren Avenue home for more than a year.

The State's argument added that CORE workers have visited his home 22 times to help install filters. Their court documents from the case explain he was only there once and refused the service.

Representing over 4,000 people in Flint, Shkolnik isn't giving up the fight.

"There are a lot of other people that have homes that have lead levels that are hundreds of times higher than they should be," he explained. "And what's important, is that those plaintiffs can come back to court and bring a request for a temporary restraining order or a preliminary injunction at that time."

If you are still in need of help, you can contact CORE workers to get a filter at (810) 238-6700.

If you'd like to pick up free bottled water, First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church is giving out what comes to them through donations from Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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