

D.C. residents boiling over lead

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 who have spoken out about lead in the water.
 "The failure by WASA to fully inform customers of the high levels of lead in their homes is inexcusable and has unnecessarily put our residents' safety at risk. Residents did not have the opportunity to make contingency plans, such as buying filters or bottled water to protect themselves," said Brazil, chairman of the committee on economic development. "We cannot have a

repeat of this, and we must hold WASA's leadership accountable for these serious failures."
 Brazil echoed Ward 4 Councilman Adrian Fenty's insistence last week that WASA chairman Glenn Gerstall and general manager Jerry Johnson both resign.
 Mayor Anthony Williams and Councilwoman Carol Schwartz (R-at-large), who co-chair the interagency task force, said last week they prefer not to terminate the

top officials at WASA. But Brazil said he also wrote a letter to the mayor and asked that he reconsider that decision.
 "The District government was kept in the dark, when it could have been working to fix this problem," Brazil said, adding that he has already spoken to a prominent law firm to see if a class action lawsuit might be an appropriate remedy.
 Residents concerned about lead contamination can have their blood tested free at

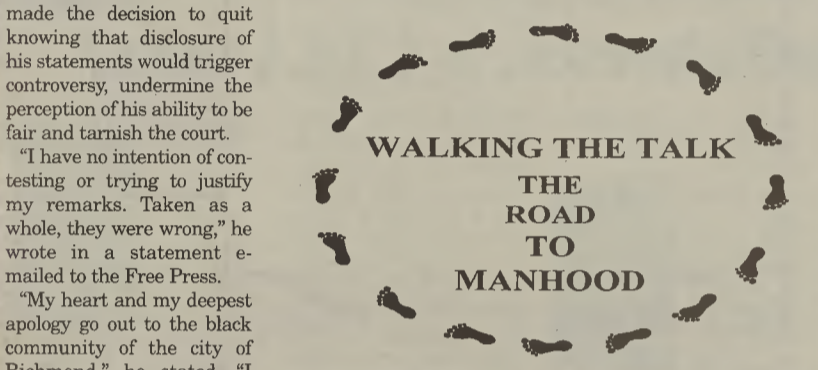
D.C. General Hospital, and water filters will be distributed to hundreds of day-care centers later this week, city officials announced over the weekend.
 Recent reports say that WASA may have fallen behind in its testing residents' water for lead by as much as four weeks. Brazil said he is offering about 100 free water lead testing kits to residents. These will measure if the water exceeds the lead limit, and provides results in 10 minutes.

Va. judge quits over racial comment

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 thief and liar." He also used the same words to describe the Rev. Al Sharpton.
 In addition, he slammed the civil rights movement, calling it "the scam it (is) and was."

being elected by the General Assembly. He was elected to his fourth six-year term in 2003.
 Revelation of the judge's provocative views were first provided to the Free Press by a member of the chat room who was shocked he would make statements that, in

her opinion, reflected on his ability to hear cases impartially.
 The Free Press verified that it was indeed Judge Robertson before approaching him for comment on his chat room statements, primarily written between Jan. 25 and Feb. 19.



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In a statement to the Free Press, the 60-year-old Richmond native said he made the decision to quit knowing that disclosure of his statements would trigger controversy, undermine the perception of his ability to be fair and tarnish the court.
 "I have no intention of contesting or trying to justify my remarks. Taken as a whole, they were wrong," he wrote in a statement e-mailed to the Free Press.
 "My heart and my deepest apology go out to the black community of the city of Richmond," he stated. "I want them to understand that I have never done anything in my court that has ever reflected racism. I have made many friends in the African-American community, and I hope they will accept this apology."
 A former defense attorney and assistant commonwealth's attorney during his 32-year legal career, Judge Robertson started as a judge on March 19, 1985, after

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