



**Detroiters Working for
Environmental Justice**
Fostering Clean, Healthy and Safe Communities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Friday, September 9, 2016

Contact: Nick Dodge, Byrum & Fisk Communications, (517) 333-1606

DWEJ President & CEO Testifies at Civil Rights Commission Flint Water Crisis Hearing

*Guy O. Williams calls for environmental justice to be a top DEQ
priority at public hearing on Flint water crisis*

FLINT, Mich. – **Guy O. Williams**, president & CEO of Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice testified at Thursday’s public hearing on the Flint water crisis. The hearing was facilitated by the **Michigan Civil Rights Commission** and was third in a series of hearings to investigate discrimination and racial bias in the Flint water crisis.

“The tragic events in Flint reveal the unfortunate truth that not all Michiganders have the same access to a healthy environment,” said Williams. “It’s disturbing that it is taking so long to resolve this issue and it should remain a top DEQ priority until all children in Flint have safe water to drink.”

Williams spoke on the last of three panels Thursday, focusing on what can be done to move Michigan forward following the water crisis. He was joined by environmental experts, former emergency managers and DEQ officials.

“The DEQ must be cognizant of environmental justice issues and it is their job to be proactive, work with affected communities and effectively address environmental problems that plague low-income communities statewide,” said Williams. “The fact that families in Flint still do not have safe drinking water is unacceptable. The DEQ is responsible for ensuring all communities, whether they are in Birmingham or Flint, have safe water to drink.”

###