

Kareem Adeem Biography

Kareem Adeem is the Director of the City of Newark's Department of Water & Sewer Utilities, who led the City's nationally-recognized lead line replacement program from March of 2019 to completion less than three years later.

In all, the City replaced about all 23,000 lead service lines in less than three years, an unprecedented accomplishment in lead line abatement.

As a result Director Adeem has been invited to speak at major conferences nationwide, hosted by groups such as the federal Environmental Protection Agency, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the national Lead Service Line Collaborative, Metro Planning Council of Chicago and the Municipal Analyst Group of New York. He also served on Gov. Phil Murphy's Lead Line Task Force and the New Jersey Water Supply Council.

Under Director Adeem's leadership the City continues to upgrade water and sewer infrastructure. The Pequannock Water Treatment Plant is now a state-of-the-art facility for filtration processes and environmental innovation. It also uses industry leading artificial intelligence to monitor conditions in the reservoirs and adjust treatment to ensure Newark water customers are getting some of the purest and safest water in the nation.

Other infrastructure projects include major improvements to mitigate flooding in Newark's low-lying areas, and continuous inspection and repair of the City intricate water and sewer lines.

Director Adeem will receive his Bachelor's Degree in Construction Management from Thomas Edison University in 2021. In 2018 he received his certification as a Public Works Manager, and in 2015 he received his certification as a Public Manager from Rutgers University. In addition, Adeem is a National Certified Storm Sewer Inspector, National Association of Sewer Service Companies (NASSCO), Certified

Pipeline Assessment & Certification Program (PACP), and Manhole Assessment & Certification Program (MACP) Sewer Inspector, and holds an NJ DEP Water & Waste Water Operators license.

Director Adeem is a Newark native who began working for Newark in 1991 in the Department of Engineering as a laborer worked his way through the ranks ever since, eventually becoming Superintendent of Maintenance Operations for the Water & Sewer Utility, Assistant Director and until being named by Mayor Ras Baraka as Director in 2019.