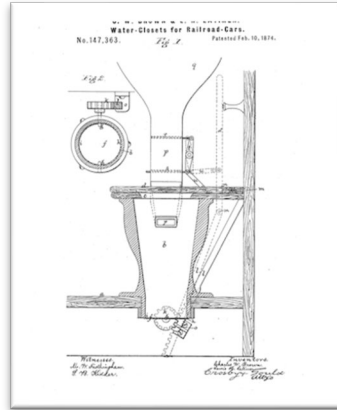




**Water & Sewerage
Department**

Black History Moment

Lewis Howard Latimer (1848-1928)



Latimer is best known for improving Thomas Edison's original light bulb invention by patenting the use of a carbon filaments in the light bulb and inventing the air conditioner. However, in 1874, Latimer co-patented (with Charles M. Brown) an improved **toilet system** for railroad cars called the **Water Closet for Railroad Cars**. Unlike the previous toilets called the open hopper systems, which disposed of waste immediately, the water closet contained a pan to hold the waste and it covered the waste with sand or soil before discharging it.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Ensures clean air, land and water



Lisa P. Jackson served as the 12th Administrator of EPA from 2009 to 2013. She was the first African American to hold this position.



The City of Detroit hosted EPA Administrator Regan last February 2022 during a press conference on flood mitigation.



Michael S. Regan was sworn in as the 16th Administrator of EPA on March 11, 2021, becoming the first African American man and second person of color to lead the Agency.

Commissioner Mary Blackman



Commissioner Blackmon serves on the Detroit Board of Water Commissioners. She was originally appointed by former Detroit Mayor Coleman Young in 1989 as the **first woman on the commission**. **This year will mark 34 years of her serving on the board.**

For the past three decades, while serving on several committees, she has also served in a number of leadership positions including Chairperson several times **(the first African American woman to serve in this role)** and is currently the Vice Chair.

A stylized, high-contrast portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in shades of blue and white. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a suit and tie, with his head tilted back and eyes looking upwards. The background behind him is a light, geometric pattern of overlapping triangles.

“If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way.”

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.