

# City of Cincinnati



**Chris Monzel**

*Cincinnati City Councilman*

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## **MOTION**

With the goal to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in the city of Cincinnati by 2010, we move that the City Administration initiate the following actions regarding the city's lead abatement strategy:

1. Immediately establish an inter-departmental task force on lead poisoning for the city. This group should include, but not be limited to, the involvement of the Health, Law, Buildings & Inspections, Community Development & Planning departments, the Office of Environmental Quality (when applicable) as well as the City Manager's office.
2. Create a list of lead-poisoning high-risk areas that will be targeted for action. Implementation will include random visual inspections and child screenings.
  - a) This list will also include inspection of the 622 units that have not had a risk assessment since 1993
  - b) "high risk" areas would mean areas that have  $\geq 5\%$  of children, ages 12-36 months, with Blood Lead Levels  $\geq 5-10$  micrograms per deciliter
  - c) Lower the blood lead level that triggers environmental interventions to  $\geq 5-10$  micrograms per deciliter.
3. Develop the role of the Buildings & Inspections Department in the city's lead-abatement strategies, such as:
  - a) Add peeling paint to B&I's inspection check list and make it a safety violation for pre-1978 housing
  - b) Prohibit the issuance of building permits for dwellings with unclosed citations issued by the Cincinnati Health Department for lead-related issues.
  - c) Enforce "lead-safe" renovation work practices in the city. This will include a prohibition on uncontained power washing of buildings and requiring all sales and rental outlets to distribute proper power washing procedures & restrictions along with the equipment's operating instructions.
4. Work with Hamilton County and the State of Ohio to expand the current part-time housing docket into a full time housing court.
5. A status report of the current 300+ open cases will be provided by the Health Department at each Education, Health & Recreation meeting until the chairman decides otherwise.
  - a) Establish bi-annual briefings of the Lead Advisory Council for the Education, Health & Recreation committee
6. Re-invigorate community collaboration in fighting lead poisoning through the following methods:
  - a) Create a new public awareness campaign on the dangers of lead poisoning

- b) Work with local pediatricians, hospitals, and city health clinics to increase the percentage of child screenings, especially in the high risk areas of the city
  - c) Work with local doctors and city health clinics to provide information on lead poisoning and prevention during pre-natal care checkups for women in high risk areas of the city
  - d) This community collaboration should include local organizations such as the Lead Advisory Council, REIA, GCNKAA, the Home Ownership Center, etc.
7. Create an annual "Lead Safety" day in the city of Cincinnati that will use the city's convention center (or other comparable facility) as the central site where any city resident could get a blood lead-level screening for their child, have paint chip samples from their homes tested for lead and receive information on lead poisoning prevention.
- a) This event should be scheduled to coincide with the State of Ohio's annual Lead Awareness Week

We further move that the city administration report back to council with what additional personnel and financial resources are needed in the 2006-2007 city budget, to properly enforce this proposal.

We further move that the city administration develop an avenue to prosecute building owners who do not abate lead or disclose known lead hazards to renters or buyers such as:

- a) Developing a trigger that would require any lead poisoning problem property owner to provide full documentation of property owner identification and whereabouts until their property has been abated.
- b) Researching how the city of Cincinnati can adopt the Ohio Dept. of Health regulations to allow local enforcement of not only the state law, but also of federal laws that are not in the state law.
- c) Adopting the actions recommended in the 2004 lead advisory committee report, specifically sections 000-9-1 (Lead Hazard Control); 0000-9-3 (Interior and Exterior Paint Disturbances); and 0000-19 (Fines and Rights).

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