



SYNOPSIS

Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology

City Council Resolution: 22-0129R

Informational Hearing - 311 Requests for Tenants Facing Chronic Mold

Sponsor: Councilmember Burnett, et al

Introduced: September 12, 2022

Purpose:

For the purpose of inviting the Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Baltimore City, the Health Commissioner, the head of Baltimore City’s 311 Services, and other interested parties to appear before the City Council to discuss the number of 311 requests received from tenants facing chronic mold problems in their homes, the number of complaints from tenants of public housing and the number from tenants of private landlords, the demographics of those making the complaints, if known, how such requests are managed, and how the City can better address and respond to reports of chronic mold in housing.

Effective: Upon enactment

AGENCY REPORTS

311 Call Center	
Department of Housing and Community Development	
Housing Authority	
Department of Health	
City Solicitor	

ANALYSIS

The resolution invites agency officials and other interested parties to appear before the City Council to discuss:

1. The number of 311 requests received from tenants facing chronic mold problems in their homes;
2. The number of complaints from tenants of public housing and the number from tenants of private landlords;
3. The demographics of those making the complaints, if known;
4. How such requests are managed; and
5. How the City can better address and respond to reports of chronic mold in housing.

Mold spores enter homes through open doorways, windows, vents, and heating and air conditioning systems, and can also be carried indoors attached to clothing, shoes, and pets. Mold spores begin to grow indoors when they land somewhere with excessive moisture due to roof or plumbing leaks, flooding, or other causes. Many common building materials provide suitable conditions for mold to grow when combined with moisture. The best way to control mold growth indoors is to control moisture.


Molds can cause health problems when they grow indoors. Molds produce allergens, irritants, and in some cases, potentially toxic substances. Inhaling or touching mold or mold spores may cause allergic reactions in sensitive individuals. Allergic responses include hay fever-type symptoms, such as sneezing, runny nose, red eyes, and skin rash. Allergic reactions to mold are common and can be immediate or delayed. Molds can also cause asthma attacks in people with asthma who are allergic to mold. There is still uncertainty regarding the full health effects of mold and research is ongoing.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s):

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture and Your Home, <https://www.epa.gov/mold/brief-guide-mold-moisture-and-your-home>
- Resolution 22-0129R

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April 21, 2023

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