

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 05-0044R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: President Dixon, Councilmembers D'Adamo, Curran, Holton, Reisinger,
Rawlings Blake, Conaway, Mitchell, Branch, Welch, Spector

At the request of: Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning
c/o Ruth Ann Norton, Executive Director

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Introduced and read first time: April 18, 2005

Assigned to: Education, Housing, Health, and Human Services Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Housing and
Community Development, Health Department

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Task Force on Lead Hazard Inspection, Enforcement, and Abatement**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a task force to review Baltimore City's inspection, enforcement,
4 and abatement laws and regulations that address the issue of lead paint and other lead-related
5 hazards in structures throughout the metropolitan area; to determine if enforcement protocols
6 and practices are adequate to address the scope of lead contaminated properties; to identify
7 measures to better coordinate enforcement activity both within and between agencies; and to
8 ascertain if lead enforcement responsibilities are assigned to the appropriate agency.

9 **Recitals**

10 The Maryland Department of the Environment reports that hundreds of children throughout
11 Maryland are diagnosed with lead poisoning each year. In Baltimore, over the last 3 years 5,300
12 young children were diagnosed with lead levels greater than 10 micrograms per deciliter, a level
13 identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as cause for alarm. A child can be
14 poisoned by ingesting an amount of lead the size of 3 granules of sugar.

15 In children, lead poisoning can cause learning disabilities, violent behavior, lowered IQ,
16 juvenile delinquency, seizures, slowed growth, attention deficit disorder, mental retardation,
17 severe behavioral problems, headaches, hyperactivity, and hearing loss. These damages are
18 irreversible and permanent, and the only cure is prevention. Years of exposure to lead may take
19 place before a child exhibits any noticeable symptoms.

20 Pregnant women exposed to lead are subject to miscarriages, low birth weight babies,
21 stillbirths, and underdeveloped babies. While children and pregnant women are most vulnerable
22 to the effects of lead poisoning, adult exposure may result in high blood pressure or

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

1 hypertension, memory and concentration problems, sterility and impotence in males, wrist drop,
2 nervous system disorders, muscle and joint pain, headaches, and irritability.

3 To combat the devastating and totally preventable scourge of lead poisoning, the Task Force
4 on Lead Hazard Inspection, Enforcement, and Abatements is formed to unite the efforts of, in
5 part, the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development Code
6 Enforcement Division, the Baltimore City Health Department, the Maryland Department of the
7 Environment, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Property Owner's
8 Association of Greater Baltimore, the Maryland Multi Housing Association, the Baltimore City
9 State's Attorney's Office, Baltimore City Healthy Start, and the Coalition to End Childhood
10 Lead Poisoning.

11 The work of the task force will include exploring ways to improve the efficiency,
12 effectiveness, and impact of current lead enforcement efforts, a review of the City's current
13 Winter Waiver policy, analyzing and making recommendations for revisions to the Health
14 Department's Abatement Regulations for Lead-Based Paint, and consideration of the
15 transference of Lead Violation Enforcement to the Department of Housing and Community
16 Development.

17 In addition, the task force will explore to how better coordinate the inspection process
18 between the Health Department inspectors and the Housing inspectors, including those assigned
19 to rent court, and will undertake a complete review and evaluation of enforcement protocols and
20 practices.

21 Further, the task force will make recommendations to increase the blood lead testing levels
22 of children ages 1-2 as mandated by Baltimore City law and for all children under age 6 in
23 accordance with Center for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines.

24 There is no excuse for any child, woman, or man to suffer from a wholly preventable illness,
25 and all forces of government, private industry, and public charity must be leveraged and
26 organized to eliminate the lethal legacy lead has left behind.

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
28 Body will establish a task force to review Baltimore City's inspection, enforcement, and
29 abatement laws and regulations that address the issue of lead paint and other lead-related hazards
30 in structures throughout the metropolitan area; to determine if enforcement protocols and
31 practices are adequate to address the scope of lead contaminated properties; to identify measures
32 to better coordinate enforcement activity both within and between agencies; and to ascertain if
33 lead enforcement responsibilities are assigned to the appropriate agency.

34 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the mission and membership of the Task Force on
35 Lead Hazard Inspection, Enforcement, and Abatement will be amended at the discretion of the
36 membership.

37 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, those
38 requested to participate on the Task Force, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City
39 Council.