



F R O M	Name & Title	Oxiris Barbot, MD Commissioner 	Health Department	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject	City Council Resolution 11-0295R		

July 6, 2011

To: President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
409 City Hall

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) has reviewed City Council Resolution 11-0295R. This resolution calls for the Mayor to appoint a Lead Abatement Review Commission to thoroughly evaluate the City's current lead abatement efforts, make recommendations to address any deficiencies in lead abatement reporting or practices, and establish a mechanism for providing regular annual reports on the City's lead abatement efforts to the City Council and the Mayor. BCHD welcomes the opportunity to support and respond to this resolution.

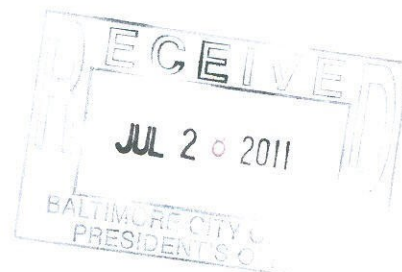
The number of Baltimore City children with elevated blood lead levels has been on a significant downward trend for over 15 years. In FY2010, the number of lead poisoned Baltimore City children was 205, down from 315 in FY2008. It is important to note that the percentage of children tested who had elevated lead levels has also decreased significantly - from 3.5% in 2007 to 1.8% in 2009. The data attests to the considerable amount of work that has been accomplished. However, there is still work to be done to eliminate the lead risks to Baltimore City children.

Rehabilitating housing to abate lead hazards involves multiple partners, including the Housing Authority and other city agencies, not-for-profit organizations, private property owners, and other initiatives. With a broad view of the City's lead abatement programs and partners, the Review Commission would be in a position to obtain expert consultation on lead abatement best practices and model programs. The establishment of a Lead Abatement Review Commission would also facilitate the evaluation of opportunities to abate lead hazards in all older properties, including those owned, maintained, controlled, or funded by city agencies.

The Health Department supports the establishment of a Lead Abatement Review Commission, which would be able to evaluate the strengths and gaps in the City's current lead abatement efforts.

We appreciate the opportunity afforded to us by City Council Resolution 11-0295R to discuss the appointment of a Lead Abatement Review Commission.

CC: Angela Gibson, Office of the mayor
Michelle Spencer, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Olivia Farrow, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Health



F