

THE CITY OF NEWPORT

R E S O L U T I O N
OF THE
C O U N C I L

No.

WHEREAS, lead poisoning is extremely dangerous especially in young children and pregnant women proven to cause:

damage to the brain and the nervous system;
slow growth and development;
learning and behavioral problems;
hearing and speech problems; AND

WHEREAS, Newport, according to the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), has a high incidence of lead poisoning in young children, the issue has come to the attention of the RI Attorney General and state lead prevention advocates looking to enforce current lead laws and the creation of prevention programs that will reduce the number of poisonings in our young children and exposure to pregnant women; AND

WHEREAS, homes built before 1978 are at high risk of containing lead paint that causes severe health issues through breathing or ingesting paint chips and dust particles; AND

WHEREAS, landlords of non-exempt rental units built before 1978 are required to obtain Certificates of Lead Conformance or proof the units meet the requirements of the Lead Hazard Mitigation Act. Non-exempt rental units must be inspected every two years by independent licensed lead inspectors who perform independent clearance inspections providing proof that any lead paint has been mitigated; AND

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Attorney General and RIDOH have issued guidance for local code enforcement to support code enforcement officers in preventing childhood lead poisoning; AND

WHEREAS, exposure to lead in drinking water is also a major concern due to the existence of some private lateral water lines that remain in service; AND

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Senate Majority Leader Michael McCaffery is the sponsor of a bill that would create the Lead Poisoning Prevention Act resulting in the replacement lead pipes over the next 10 years using financial resources through the federal infrastructure bill and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA); NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Newport City Council supports the Senate bill creating the Lead Poisoning Prevention Act; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the City Administration enforce all current laws pertaining to lead poisoning and follow the prevention guidance issued by the RI Attorney General to bring non-exempt rental units into compliance with the Lead Mitigation Act; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the administration seek out available federal and state resources that would support fiscal assistance programs relating to the elimination of lead hazards; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the City create a comprehensive communications plan that will educate the public on the dangers of lead poisoning and the programs currently available to help mitigate lead paint in homes, as well as information that will advise landlords and tenants of their rights and responsibilities pertaining the prevention of lead poisoning.

LYNN UNDERWOOD CEGLIE
JEANNE-MARIE NAPOLITANO
JAMIE BOVA
CHARLES M. HOLDER, JR.
ELIZABETH FUERTE

IN COUNCIL
READ AND PASSED

Laura C. Swistak
City Clerk