

City of Cambridge

MAY 1, 1978

COMMITTEE REPORT
ENVIRONMENT

MEETING HELD IN WALNUT ROOM, CITY HALL, APRIL 19, 1978
COUNCILLORS DUEHAY, WYLIE AND VELLUCCI PRESENT
MEETING CONVENED BY COUNCILLOR DUEHAY AT 8:45 A.M.

TOPIC DISCUSSED

Lead Paint

Councillor Duehay requested Attorney Jeanne Kettleson, representing Edan H. Collymore et al in a suit against the City of Cambridge regarding lead paint to explain the suit and the proposed Consent Decree in the matter. Ms. Kettleson stated that although the Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Act had been in effect since 1971 the City has not been conducting lead paint inspections. Consequently, Edan H. Collymore, a fifteen month old child upon being examined was found to have elevated levels of lead in his blood from lead paint on the walls and other surfaces of his home. Hence the suit had been filed.

Attorney Kettleson further stated that a great deal of research in the area of lead paint has been done by Dr. Herbert Needleman of the Children's Hospital and he is extremely interested in any kind of prevention/detection program. Furthermore, she stated, the City Solicitor held a meeting with the Health Commissioner and all the Health Inspectors and went through the entire Consent Decree with all present.

Councillor Duehay requested a comprehensive policy plan be prepared within the next several weeks which would address such issues as the implementation of the consent decree, the manpower needed to implement the decree, the cost factor involved by both the city and homeowner/tenant and any other related issues. In order to formulate such a policy plan, Councillor Duehay appointed a Special Sub-Committee on Lead Paint who will meet with Dr. Comunale as well as other appropriate individuals regarding the entire lead paint issue. Councillor Duehay stated he was extremely interested in having Dr. Comunale's support and ideas on this issue and urged the special sub-committee to work closely with him.

Both Councillors Duehay and Wylie expressed concern over the cost of de-leading an apartment and voiced particular concern about whether or not a homeowner whose property is under rent control could regain some of the expense of de-leading through rent adjustments.

PENDING REPORT

A comprehensive policy plan for implementation of the forthcoming consent decree was requested from the Special Sub-Committee on Lead Paint.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:50 A.M.

For the Committee,

Councillor Francis H. Duehay
Chairman

5-189^{3.}
Comm. from Councillor Duehay transmitting a
report from the Committee on Environment.

In City Council,

May 1, 1978

5/1/78

Placed on File -
Copy to the City
Manager

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