

Councillor Vellucci question Mr. Doherty as to why all inspectors were not trained to do lead paint.

Mr. Doherty responded by stating lead paint inspections are currently being done by Mr. Castle. Mr. Doherty further stated that he had been in contact with the State Department of Public Health relative to establishing a retraining program for all inspectors and possibly lead paint inspection could be included.

At this time general discussion ensued relative to the necessity of coordinating inspections with the Building Department. It was unanimously agreed that this is an essential factor in any comprehensive property inspection.

Councillor Vellucci stated that the Housing and Code Inspectors should be represented by legal counsel and that a lawyer should be assigned to the department on a full time basis. He further stated that he was aware that a lawyer was assigned to the Hospital but did not know what other duties he had. Councillor Vellucci questioned Mr. Doherty as to the number of times the inspectors appeared in court.

Mr. Doherty stated that last year the inspectors were required to make 550 court appearances of which 150 required the presence of an attorney.

The inspectors urged the committee to support the proposed Certificate of Habitation which is currently on the City Council Calendar. They feel this would assist them greatly in their inspections since all units would be inspected upon becoming vacant.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A. M.

For the Committee,

Councillor Alfred E. Vellucci
Chairman

City of Cambridge

In City Council..... September 24, 1979

The City Council **Committee** on Health and Hospitals, comprised of Councillors Alfred Vellucci, Chairman, Mary Ellen Preusser and Walter Sullivan, held a meeting of the Committee on Tuesday, September 18, 1979 at 8 A. M.

~~to which~~

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss housing and code inspections which are conducted under the auspices of the Health and Hospital Department.

Councillor Vellucci requested the name of the Supervisor of the Housing and Code Inspectors as well as the actual number of inspectors in the department.

Mr. Kevin Doherty responded by stating that he was the supervisor and currently the department has seven code inspectors and five sanitation inspectors. He further stated that three inspectors have been out sick and apparently will be out for some time.

Councillor Vellucci then stated that he was extremely upset by several individual reports that he had received from people who had their property inspected. He further stated that he was not blaming the inspectors per se but more direction should be coming from a supervisory level to the inspectors.

Councillor Vellucci and Councillor Sullivan both stated that more compassion must be given to property owners as well as tenants rather than being threatened with court action.

Reports,

Mr. Doherty stated that to his knowledge all inspectors exercised great compassion and understanding when dealing with tenants and property owners and that the inspections are done based upon Article 2 of the Massachusetts Sanitary Code. Mr. Doherty further stated that if any councillor had a complaint regarding an inspection, he would be happy to review it.

At this time Councillor Preusser stated that there should be a better communication network established within the Health and Hospital Department as well as throughout all city departments and agencies. She further stated that once a communication system is established, seminars should be held which would provide housing rehabilitation information to property owners. She further stated that this kind of program should include as participants representatives of all appropriate departments and agencies who provide this kind of assistance. Councillor Preusser requested that Mr. Doherty prepare an "action plan" for review by the Committee based upon the discussion of today, September 18th.

Councillor Vellucci requested a list of contractors who do unleading work.

At this time general discussions ensued relative to the lead paint inspection program, its past and present.

REPORT S-507

Committee on Health and Hospitals for
meeting held on Sept. 18, 1979 re: housing
and code inspections.

9/24/79 - Report
Accepted -

In City Council,
Sept. 24, 1979

Placed
on
File