

Request for Committee Action

To: Community Development & Regulatory Services
Date: 8/11/2015
From: Regulatory Services
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Presented by: Daniel Huff, Director – Environmental Services / Lisa Smestad, Manager – Lead & Healthy Homes / Mike Rumppe, Interim Deputy Director – Housing Inspections
File type: Ordinance
Subcategory: Code Amendment

Subject:

Ordinance amending Title 12, Chapter 244 Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Housing: Licensing Standards to add a new subdivision (24) related to lead poisoning

Description:

Passage of Ordinance Amendment

Previous Actions:

July 24, 2015 Ordinance Introduce

Ward/Neighborhood/Address:

Not Applicable

Background/Analysis:

Enter background/analysis.

This ordinance amendment adds licensing standard (24) related to lead poisoning. Specifically, the ordinance would allow the City of Minneapolis to revoke the rental license of a property owner if their property were found to be responsible for a second lead poisoning case.

Lead is a naturally occurring heavy metal that has long been recognized as causing brain damage and other serious health impacts in humans. In 1978 the addition of lead to residential paint was banned in the United States because of the risk it posed to our nation's children.

Approximately eighty percent (80%) of Minneapolis's residential buildings were built before the ban went into effect. Lead-based paint in homes and apartments remains a significant source of environmental pollution in our community. In 1992, the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) released Title 10, which provides guidelines for lead paint hazards in residential housing.

In 1998, the City of Minneapolis started receiving HUD grant funds to help reduce the lead hazards in the homes of children. These competitively awarded grant funds continue to bring millions of dollars to Minneapolis property owners for the removal of lead hazards. Additionally, multiple education and outreach efforts have engaged property owners on the dangers of lead paint and how to safely maintain their properties in order to prevent lead poisoning in children.

For 17 years these educational efforts and grant monies have been targeted to managers and owners of rental property. Since 1998, over 2,060 rental properties have been the recipient of

HUD grant funds at an average of cost of \$7,000 per unit to remediate lead-based paint hazards.

Lead poisoning is 100% preventable. The majority of Minneapolis's rental properties are well-maintained and pose little-to-no lead risk for children. Unfortunately, 4,500 Minneapolis children have been poisoned by lead-based paint since 2005. In spite of education and millions of dollars targeted for property remediation, the vast majority (75%) of these children lived in rental properties.

Since 2005, 245 children have been poisoned in units where 56 different rental property owners have had lead poisoned children in at least two their properties. Once a lead poisoning is found, rental property owners are given education on the consequences of lead poisoning and remedies and resources available to assist in making rental properties lead safe.

This ordinance change would provide City of Minneapolis staff with an additional tool to address non-compliant landlord and incentivize landlords to comply and make their properties lead safe.

Financial Review:

No financial impact.

- Future budget impact anticipated.**
- Approved by the Permanent Review Committee.**
- Meets Small and Underutilized Business Program goals.**

Attachments: