

## CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Testing Reveals Items of Children's Jewelry with Excess Lead Sold in Vending Machines**

**BALTIMORE, MD (March 27, 2007)**— The Baltimore City Health Department has issued a violation notice to a business prohibiting the vending machine sale of three items of children's jewelry that were identified with a lead level in metal components above 1200 parts per million. The Consumer Product Safety Commission has been alerted.

The Health Commissioner is deeming all products of the same style and manufacturer of these three items be a nuisance to public health. These products may not be offered for retail sale in Baltimore City.

Under a regulation adopted on December 7, 2006, children's jewelry containing more than 1200 parts per million may not be offered for retail sale in Baltimore City. Starting September 1, 2007, children's jewelry with metal components containing in excess of 600 parts per million of total lead will be banned.

The items identified were sold in vending machines at Food - A - Rama, 3801 Eastern Avenue are listed below :



A ring with a pink die cube. The ring contained 50,390 parts per million of lead.



A ring with a plain die cube. The ring contained 55,190 parts per million of lead.



A ring with a horseshoe and green and pink paint. The ring contained 47,420 parts per million of lead.

Lead is a neurotoxin that can cause severe illness and even death at high doses and cognitive impairment and other neurological problems at lower doses. The standard for lead in paint is 600 parts per million of lead. The Consumer Product Safety Commission is reviewing {the comment period ended} comments about a proposal to create a rule establishing a legal limit of 600 parts per million for lead in children's jewelry. Such a standard is not in effect at the federal level.

The Health Department tested 11 items of children's jewelry in March 2007. The above items were the only items found to be in excess of 1200 parts per million. A full report of the testing and results will be released later today.

Baltimore's regulation on lead in children's jewelry can be found online at [http://www.baltimorehealth.org/press/2006\\_12\\_07\\_lead\\_regs.pdf](http://www.baltimorehealth.org/press/2006_12_07_lead_regs.pdf)

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