

CITY OF BALTIMORE

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO POST ADDRESSES WITH CURRENT LEAD HAZARD VIOLATIONS

BALTIMORE, MD (October 22, 2007) – At the start of Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, the Baltimore City Health Department – Healthy Homes Division is providing homebuyers and renters access to information on properties with current lead hazard violations through its website.

Previously, the public could use the internet to look up outstanding housing code violations on the Baltimore City Department of Housing website, but had to call the Health Department to find out about open lead violations.

The new initiative allows online users see addresses of city-inspected properties with lead hazards that have remained unfixed for over 60 days. The website includes a fact sheet explaining the postings, as well as tips for how to identify lead hazards and some of the legal requirements when an owner wants to rent a property built before 1950.

The Health Department is asking for public feedback on the program to be submitted during the open comment period until November 30.

Ruth Ann Norton, Executive Director of the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, supported the effort, saying, “Having easy access to information about lead hazards is critical to our efforts to enforce safety standards and assure families can locate lead safe housing.”

“We hope that this new tool will aid in the fight to end childhood lead poisoning by 2010,” said Madeleine Shea, Baltimore City Assistant Commissioner for Healthy Homes.

Lead violations are issued by the City when properties are inspected and found to have a child living at them with elevated blood lead levels and to have lead hazards like chipping, peeling, or otherwise exposed lead paint.

Since 1995, the number of children with elevated blood lead levels ($\geq 10\mu\text{g/dL}$) has fallen from 10,258 to 843 in 2006 in Baltimore – a decrease of 92%.

To find out about properties with unfixed lead violations, visit <http://www.baltimorehealth.org/leadviolations> or call 443-984-2460.

To submit a comment on the new initiative to post lead violations write to:

Baltimore City Health Department
Healthy Homes Division
210 Guilford Ave
Baltimore, MD 21202

Or email:

leadviolationcomments@baltimorecity.gov

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