

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-305

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 6, 2020

To recognize October 25 through October 31, 2020, as National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week and emphasize the importance of lead poisoning prevention and the reduction of childhood exposure to lead.

WHEREAS, National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week brings together people, organizations, industry, and state, tribal, and local governments to increase lead poisoning prevention awareness in an effort to reduce childhood exposure to lead;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), and other partners work to heighten awareness of lead poisoning, provide resources, and encourage preventative actions during National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week and beyond;

WHEREAS, childhood lead poisoning is considered the most preventable environmental disease among young children;

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, approximately half a million American children between the ages of 1 and 5 years old have blood lead levels greater or equal to the level of the blood lead reference value, the level at which CDC recommends public health actions begin;

WHEREAS, about 3.6 million American households have children under 6 years of age who live in homes with lead exposure hazards;

WHEREAS, children are at a greater risk for lead exposure than others, including those who are from low-income families, members of racial-ethnic minority groups, recent immigrants, and living in older, poorly maintained rental properties;

WHEREAS, lead is a toxic mineral, especially in young children, that can cause damage to the brain and other vital organs and decreased learning and behavior problems when absorbed into the body;

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WHEREAS, the most common sources of lead in drinking water are lead pipes, faucets, and fixtures;

WHEREAS, the most common source of lead exposure is from lead-based paint, which was used in many homes built before 1978;

WHEREAS, lead is also commonly found in soil, household dust, paint in toys and other household items, cosmetics, art supplies, pottery, and some herbal medicines;

WHEREAS, lead continues to be a prevalent hazard in the District of Columbia, having been found at elevated levels in recreational spaces across the city;

WHEREAS, education about lead dangers, frequent testing of potential lead hazards, transparency of testing results, and prompt remediation are key to protecting District residents from lead poisoning;

WHEREAS, identification and remediation of lead are shared responsibilities among many District agencies, the private sector, and the public; and

WHEREAS, National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week can help educate, coordinate, and mobilize the District government and the community to address the pressing dangers of lead in our community.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week Recognition Resolution of 2020”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes the continuing importance of lead poisoning prevention throughout the District and declares October 25 through October 31, 2020, National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week in the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.