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CITY OF NEW HAVEN
BOARD OF ALDERS

September 12, 2019

Dear Chair Santana, Vice-Chair Marchand, and members of the Legislation Committee, *Thank you for taking up this important matter.*

We ~~write~~ ^{are here} to express our opposition to proposed changes to key provisions of the City's Lead Paint Ordinance. In particular, authorizing rather than requiring the Director of Public Health to conduct lead paint inspections upon receiving a report of lead levels above the 5 mg/deciliter Center for Disease Control reference level is highly problematic. Inspections of dwelling units associated with reports of elevated lead levels in children's blood should be required and should not be left to anyone's discretion. *Furthermore, we need open data on how many cases there are, how many inspections are taking place, and how long inspections take to cost.*

The proposed changes also remove the Board of Alders from the process of selecting members of the lead poisoning advisory committee, which is charged with the development and adoption of lead policies, programs and procedures.¹ The Board of Alders can play a meaningful role in vetting candidates for this body, as the Board does for other City boards, commissions, and committees. It is important that this body approach the issue from as many perspectives as possible, including members of the legal services community and others who may have examined the City's policies and procedures and may have insights into how to improve them.

The lead poisoning advisory committee ~~has yet to~~ ^{should} be formally reconstituted ~~and~~ ^{It} has not weighed in on the draft before the committee this evening. It would be prudent to gather input from the advisory committee before moving ahead with substantive changes to the ordinance. We ask that the committee table this item to give the advisory committee an opportunity to recommend refinements and improvements to the ordinance before it is taken up again.

ABIGAIL ROTH
Alder, Ward 7

STEVEN WINTER
Alder, Ward 21