Interoffice Memorandum

To: Mayor Schmoke From: Ms. Diana Williams

Subject: Health And Safety Issues

Date: December 3, 1996

Because of encapsulation of approximately 1/3 of the first through third floors for the continuation of an estimated 18-month major renovation project at Fairmount Harford High School (F.H.H.S.), there are still very urgent concerns that the faculty, parrents, and students have regarding the impact of such a major renovation on our health and safety. And, although doctors from the Kennedy Krieger Institute reported in their press conference on Monday, November 25, 1996 that only 9 of the 145 adults and children tested for lead exposure had lead levels that were considered "mildly elevated", there continues to be issues that need to be heard and addressed in that statistical data indicate the presence of very high concentrations of lead in various parts of this facility. Some questions and concerns raised by many of my colleagues, parents, and students include the following:

- 1. The staff and P.T.A. should unrestrictingly be privileged to the data used by the doctors at Kennedy Krieger Institute and Hopkins Bayview in derriving their statistical analysis and drawing
- 2. The staff and P.T.A. should have a copy of the "recommendations" issued by the doctors at Kennedy Krieger Institute to the individuals responsible for the overall renovation project.
- 3. If the total estimated population of Fairmount Harford Hgh School is approximately 1,520, which includes the staff and students attending Saturday School (which number approximately 800) and the students in the day school who were not tested (numbering approximately 575), why is it that only approximately 9% of the total estimated population was tested?
- 4. Why was not a random sampling of the total estimated population taken in order to prevent a skewed or an unbias sampling of the
- 5. Can a random sample of the entire population be taken in order to conduct asbestos testing since there is evidence of asbestos exposure in the "report of analysis" and "air monitoring data sheet" conducted

Exhibit 23

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by I.H. Services, Inc.

Along with the constant threat of more exposure to lead, asbestos, and other dust hazards because of the on-going renovation at F.H.H.S., there are, also, other vital health and safety concerns that further question and challenge the rationale and motives for allowing the staff and students to remain in the building while an estimated 18-month renovation project is underway. Some of the health and safety issues I have been informed of as a result of a genuine concern for the well being of everyone include the following:

- 1. There are presently no bathrooms available for use on the 3rd
- 2. There are currently no facilities available for washing hands or blackboards on the 3rd floor. And, the only drinking water on this floor is from one "Bear" bottled-water jug.
- 3. Presently there is one operable bathroom for female students available on the 2nd floor. However, there is another single-stall bathroom on this floor which may or may not be sanitary, operable, or accessible to staff and/or students on any given day.
- 4. Presently, there are 4 bathrooms on the first floor that are accessible to faculty and students. One of the bathrooms is a female handicap facility which can only be occupied by one individual at a time. Another bathroom on this floor is available for male students. The third bathroom, which was occupied by the Morgan State Headstart staff is, also, a single-stall facility. The fourth bathroom on this floor was also used by the Morgan State Headstart children until the Health Department removed those children from F.H.H.S. due to the evidence of very high levels of lead in paint samples, which was analyzed by Gascoyne Laboratories. There are a few more single-stall bathrooms on the first floor, but they are located inside offices which are not normally accessible to all staff and students.
- 5. Currently, there are about 6 exits that are blocked off due to the preparations for the estimated 18-month major renovation.

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- 6. Currently, 2 to 3 teachers and their classes are sharing one classroom. The Physical Education classes are being held in the cafeteria.
- 7. Due to the encapsulation, various fire code violations may be endangering lives, particularly in the event of an emergency.

Again, these are just some of the issues the faculty, parents, and students would hope to addressed.

I'm requesting that every effort should be made to immediately evacuate and relocate th faculty and students at Fairmount Harford High School. No human being should be coerce work in an environment that is unsanitary, unhealthy, and unsafe. Certainly, our children should be forced to come to an unhealthy facility; one where they are expected to perform academically in an environment that may not be appropriate or conducive to learning.

Thus, I would be honored to accompany you, Mayor Schmoke, on a tour of the facility these deplorable, inhumane, and absolutely unacceptable conditions.

Your response to these concerns and request will be most humbly appreciated.

cc:BTU

PTA

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