

TO: Honorable Kurk Schmoke, Mayor of Baltimore City

FROM: Diana R. Williams, Mathematics Teachers at  
Fairmount-Harford High School

RE: Lead-Based Paint at Fairmount-Harford High School

As the 1997-1998 school year is only a few days away, I find it most imperative that I make another plea on behalf of all the students, parents of students, and staff at Fairmount-Harford High School. It is one of my ultimate prayers that you, Mayor Schmoke, will not allow our children or my colleagues to be subjected to another year of exposure to lead and asbestos during the major renovation that has been and continues to be taking place at this facility. Also, it is at this time that I come to you with a wealth of expertise in lead hazard control and evaluation using HUD's "state of the art" Guidelines for the Evaluation and Control of Lead-Based Paint Hazards in Housing. In other words, I have been trained by some of this country's pioneers in lead abatement services, all of whom are capable of being expert witnesses in the inspection, assessment, and evaluation of lead-based hazards in single-family dwellings or multi-family dwellings. Under the instruction of these experts, I have been trained and have successfully completed the following lead abatement courses: 1. Lead Abatement Worker 2. Maintenance and Repainting Supervisor 3. Lead Paint Removal and Demolition Supervisor 4. Contractor 5. Project Designer 6. Visual Inspector 7. Inspector Technician 8. Risk Assessor. I have been accredited by the MDE in various areas of lead abatement services, including that of a Lead Paint Removal and Demolition Supervisor, Contractor, Visual Inspector, and an Inspector Technician. Consequently, as an accredited Inspector Technician, I have thoroughly reviewed and analyzed the 1993 and 1996 inspection reports concerning lead-based paint at Fairmount-Harford High School. And, candidly speaking, it will be a privilege for me to demonstrate in an open forum and before any accredited lead-based paint expert of your choosing or from MDE's, HUD's, or EPA's choosing how terribly unreliable, incomplete, and inaccurate these lead-based paint inspection reports are. As an Inspector Technician, I can go through, step-by-step, the correct protocol according to the 1995 HUD Guidelines. Still too, as an accredited Inspector Technician, I am capable of, unquestionably, proving that the data for the dust wipe samples were not done in accordance with the Guidelines outlined by HUD. Given the fact that the lead inspection reports can be very easily proven to be quite unreliable, incomplete, and inaccurate, one alternative would be to have another lead paint inspection, which must include a surface-by-surface analysis of every conceivable, differently painted surface inside and outside of this facility. Also, although I was informed on several occasions about the untrained workers dry scraping the ceilings, it's quite obvious to any expert in lead abatement services that from the amount of lead dust contained in the dust wipe samples that

dust can be anywhere and everywhere in the interior and exterior of Fairmount-Hartford High School. Therefore, as part of the new lead paint inspection, it is necessary to perform dust wipe samples of every room or room equivalent to see if any lead dust levels exceeds HUD's or Maryland's standards for lead dust on floors, window sills, window wells, or other horizontal surfaces. Soil samples need to be taken for the play area where Morgan State Head Start children go out for recreation.

A lead abatement process was undertaken in the replacement of the windows which occurred after the 1993 lead inspection report showed that there were tremendously high levels of lead-based paint in the interior and exterior of this facility. Some very serious procedural errors were made in the window replacements. The students and staff, including myself, witnessed some of the windows being replaced while classes were in session. We, also, witnessed a lot of lead dust and debris being created and distributed throughout the building. Consequently, we have ingested and inhaled quite a bit of lead. And, even though the law specifically prohibits children and pregnant females from being in a building during an abatement process, be it a lead abatement or asbestos abatement, Morgan State Head Start children and pregnant females were certainly in this facility during the window replacements, which is defined as an abatement process.

The routine cleaning of the maintenance staff doesn't pick up a significant amount of the lead dust because lead dust is invisible to the naked eye and has a tendency to stick to surfaces. The only way to remove the lead dust is through the use of a special cleaning process, which includes the use of TSP and HEPA vacuuming.

As an expert in lead abatement and an accredited visual inspector, I offer my services, without charge to the owners of this public facility, to conduct dust wipes according to the specifications outlined by HUD. In fact, as an accredited Inspector Technician, I will volunteer my services to conduct another lead paint inspection using the XRF according to HUD Guidelines and under the watchful eye of any accredited lead Inspector Technician and/or Risk Assessor of your choosing. And, if the new lead inspection isn't done according to HUD's 1995 Guidelines for Lead Paint Inspection, I will be responsible for compensating the other hired experts. Furthermore, since it is obvious from the late recognition of the lead based hazards in the boys' and girls' bathrooms at the facility that a full risk assessment has yet to be completed, I will, too, offer my services as a trained Risk Assessor to give an assessment and evaluation of the lead-based hazards at Fairmount-Hartford High School, using the new lead paint inspection report as a valuable part of my overall assessment. In fact, as one who has been trained and have successfully completed the Risk Assessor course and as an expert in lead abatement services, I would highly recommend to the School Board, Superintendent, Dr. Bellinson from Baltimore City's Health Department, and certainly to the owners of this facility, namely, the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, that no one except the trained individuals completing the major renovation be allowed to continue to work in this school until another lead paint inspection and full risk assessment have been completed. Also, by law, no one should be allowed into this facility until the facility has passed the test for clearance in terms of dust wipes or until the risk reduction standards have been met. My primary reason for these recommendations is to insure the health and safety of all individuals particularly our "future leaders of tomorrow."

I thank my Heavenly Father and his only begotten son, Jesus Christ, for providing me with the strength, discipline, and determination necessary to obtain the knowledge and expertise relevant to lead abatement control and evaluation in order to bring to light those things that were done in darkness. Consequently, I am hoping that you, Mayor Schmoke, will act immediately to remove the students and staff at Fairmount-Harford High School to a more healthier and safer educational setting while the major renovations are in progress. Also, I'm hoping that, in the future, no more major renovations take place in schools while the students and staff are occupying the facility.

As time is of the essence in that schools will reopen on September 3, 1997, I would appreciate your response to my suggestions and requests as soon as possible.

Peace and Blessings,  
 Diana K. Williams

- cc: BTU
- Unity for Action
- PTA
- Dr. Bellinson
- ACLU
- Superintendent
- School Board
- F.H.S. Staff
- F.H.S. Parents
- MDE
- EPA
- MOSH
- Governor Glendening
- Dr. Grasmick
- News Media
- Dr. Jacobs
- Mr. Bowen
- Sister Feeley
- Community Leaders
- Dr. Winner
- Dr. George

Parents

Calla

Ask

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 Mayor's Office - 396-3100  
 Superintendent - 396-8803  
 School Board - 396-8709  
 News Station - 411-338-6501  
 Ch. 13 - 466-7  
 Ch. 2 - 435-847  
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