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CITY COUNCIL PASSES LEAD-SAFE RENOVATION ORDINANCE

Ordinance Would Ensure Proper Handling of Lead Paint and Asbestos During Demolition and Renovation

Today, the Chicago City Council approved an amendment to the demolition and renovation ordinance (Chicago Municipal Code Chapter 11-4) that aims to protect public health and the environment by reducing the risk of exposure to dust and debris that may be contaminated with lead-based paint or asbestos-containing material.

"This is an important ordinance that will protect our children from harmful exposure to lead paint and asbestos, and will ensure the safe handling of these materials in renovation and demolitions," said Mayor Emanuel. "As we rebuild and modernize our city and its buildings, it is important that we are conscious of these factors in our efforts."

"I am proud to work with the Mayor and his team in crafting this vitally important public health measure," said Ald. Moore. "The proposed ordinance will add needed safeguards to protect the environment and the health and safety of our residents."

"It is imperative that the demolition and renovation of buildings in Chicago be properly handled," said Chicago Public Health Commissioner Dr. Bechara Choucair. "By ensuring that projects permitted in the city are performed in compliance with the federal rule, this amendment will help to limit exposure to lead hazards and prevent lead poisoning before it happens."

The proposed amendment will strengthen and clarify existing ordinance to reduce the risks of exposure to these materials during demolition and renovation. The ordinance will especially protect children, who are particularly vulnerable to the health impacts of lead, which can cause learning disabilities and behavior problems. Inhalation of microscopic asbestos fibers can cause potentially fatal asbestos-related diseases such as asbestosis and mesothelioma.

This amendment will require permit applicants to certify they will comply with federal lead-safe training requirements and work practices when conducting work that may disturb lead-based paint

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in certain buildings. Contractors who apply for renovation permits or architectural surface cleaning permits for work in certain pre-1978 child-occupied buildings must certify that they are in compliance with the U.S. EPA's Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule, which has been in effect since 2010. By ensuring that projects permitted in the city are performed in compliance with the federal rule, this ordinance will help to limit exposure to lead hazards and prevent lead poisoning before it happens.

Further, the amendment clarifies the notice, fee, and disposal provisions in the current asbestos ordinance. Clarifying the notification procedures will ensure that the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) is timely notified of such projects for review and inspection. By clarifying that asbestos-containing demolition debris must be disposed of properly, the ordinance will benefit anyone who might come into contact with the debris, from the workers and waste haulers to the general public.

Overall revisions to the ordinance include:

- A clarification that buildings must be inspected for asbestos before being demolished and that the debris must be properly disposed.
- Procedural clarifications regarding the timing and form of asbestos notifications submitted to the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH).
- A new requirement for contractors to report compliance with already-existing federal lead-safe work practices before doing work that will disturb paint in pre-1978 child-occupied buildings.

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