

LEAD SAFE CLEVELAND COALITION

NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release: July 24, 2019

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Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition Applauds Passage of Historic Lead Safe Legislation

Lead safe certificate represents systematic policy change

CLEVELAND – The Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition applauds Cleveland City Council for passing Ordinance 747-2019 and Resolution 748-2019, historic legislation that will help make Cleveland lead safe.

Reactions from Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition leaders:

**Mark McDermott, Enterprise Community Partners
Chair of the Policy Committee**

“The Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition believes that no child should ever be lead poisoned. Today marks the moment when Cleveland came together to make systematic policy change that says just that – primary prevention comes first.

With this legislation, the City acknowledges the foundational importance of proactive rental inspections and elevating Cleveland’s expectations for its housing stock and landlords.

The new Lead Safe Certificate system will safeguard children’s health while simultaneously presenting an opportunity to improve Cleveland’s housing stock. We owe it to Cleveland’s children to improve their neighborhoods and their homes – creating lead safe homes is a long over-due investment into our historically disinvested communities.

Coalition will work alongside our landlords, property owners, and tenants to protect our children.”

**Marcia Egbert, The George Gund Foundation
Chair of the Resource Development Committee**

“This is an incredible milestone in our work to prevent childhood lead poisoning. Today we celebrate everyone who contributed to the passage of this legislation. Tomorrow our work continues.

The Coalition takes seriously the importance of capitalizing and launching the Lead Safe Home Fund. The Fund will support the new Lead Safe Certificate system as well as cost effective remediations to make homes lead safe. The Lead Safe Certificate must and will be paired with smart implementation and robust resources.”

**August Napoli, United Way of Greater Cleveland
Chair of the Summit Committee**

“On the heels of the Lead Safe Home Summit—a convening of over 500 residents, experts, and policymakers—our community has proven once more its passion and expertise regarding lead poisoning prevention.

Like the Coalition’s process, the City Council legislative process was built on inclusive dialogue, evidence-based practices, and deep engagement. Well-informed action ruled the day. We applaud City Council for its courage in making the difficult decisions, the decisions that are necessary to create a lead safe Cleveland.”

**Mitchell Balk, Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation
Chair of the Governance Committee**

“The Lead Safe Cleveland Steering Committee stands ready to help implement this legislation, and its historic passage marks the next phase of our public-private partnership. We will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our City of Cleveland colleagues, ready to make this ordinance work for Cleveland’s families and landlords.

This will be no small task, but we are all in.”

**Kim Foreman, Environmental Health Watch
Chair of the Community Engagement Committee**

“This legislation is a long time coming. We’ve been working for years to make this systemic policy change. I’d like to thank City Council—especially Council President Kelley, Councilman Griffin, and Councilman McCormack—for getting it done.

The Community Engagement Committee is eager to get out into the community and discuss this new Lead Safe Certificate system with residents and landlords alike. At the end of the day, this issue has been and always will be about families and children. We are ready to let our neighbors know that this is a new day in Cleveland.”

The Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition would like to give **special recognition** to all those who contributed to the passage of this legislation.

First and foremost, we’d thank each of our more than 300 coalition members. Public-private partnership is the spirit of this effort because true collaboration generates the best results for our community. Today’s passage underscores that fact.

Thank you to the Funders Concerned about Lead Poisoning, including the Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation, the George Gund Foundation, the Saint Luke’s Foundation, The Cleveland Foundation, the Bruening Foundation, the Sisters of Charity Foundation, the Third Federal Foundation, the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, and United Way of Greater Cleveland.

Thank you to the Honorable Mayor Frank G. Jackson and his Administration, including Chief Walker Minor and Directors Donald, Menesse, and Gordon.

Thank you to the members of Cleveland City Council, especially Council President Kelley, Councilman Griffin, and Councilman McCormack.

Thank you to the countless local and national experts whose time, guidance, and commitment made this legislation possible. Ordinance 747-2019 built on years of hard work done locally here in Cleveland and across the nation. The Healthy Homes Advisory Council, Environmental Health Watch, the BUILDHealth team, The Cleveland Plain Dealer, the Interagency Council on Healthy Homes, The National Center for Healthy Homes, Rochester’s Coalition to End Lead Poisoning, the National Funders Action Network on Lead Poisoning, and so many more contributed to this milestone and our progress.

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