

Lead Paint Changes Urged

The City Health Department wants to change its lead paint program so it no longer needs court approval to order homeowners to remove the poisonous substance.

Arthur Wallach, assistant health commissioner for environmental services, said yesterday the alteration is being sought because hearings on lead paint problems are receiving a low priority in the courts.

"For instance, in 1976, of 438 cases scheduled for court hearings, only 120 were heard," Wallach told City Council's Committee on Public Health and Welfare.

Wallach said all the cases involved a direct lead paint threat to children. "The majority remain in violation of department orders, and thus the children involved are still exposed to the health hazard," he said.

WALLACH TESTIFIED on an ordinance to amend the lead paint abatement program to conform to newly revised federal guidelines.

However, the section dealing with enforcement was redone to help the city move more quickly on lead paint problems without court delays.

Under the proposed changes, the Health Department could order removal of lead paint without court approval and if the owner refused, it could remove it on its own and bill the owner.

If the owner failed to pay, a lien could be placed against his property. Wallach said the department

would act to remove lead paint only "at those properties where a child has been identified as having undue lead absorption."

"IN SITUATIONS where a parent-guardian of the child at-risk is the owner of the dwelling unit and is on limited income, the department would remove the lead hazard at no charge as long as funds are avail-

able," Wallach said.

Wallach pointed out the new federal law on which the city ordinance is patterned takes effect June 22 and will ban any further lead paint sales.

The Health Committee unanimously voted to report the ordinance to Council with a favorable recommendation.

City May Remove Lead Paint in Homes

By GUNTER DAVID
Of The Bulletin Staff

A bill that would allow the city to remove lead based paint from houses and apartments and then charge landlords for the expense was approved yesterday by a City Council committee.

Under the legislation, backed by the Health Department, the city would act when landlords balked at orders to get rid of the paint, especially harmful to children.

The bill, amending present law, also would allow court action against landlords who refuse to reimburse the city for paint removal.

Arthur Wallach, assistant health commissioner, urged passage of the bill at a hearing before council's Com-

mittee on Public Health and Welfare.

Wallach said there are many children in Philadelphia in great danger because they live in old houses or apartments with lead based paint on walls or woodwork.

He told the committee members this is because legal action brought by the city against landlords regarding lead based paint receive low priority in the courts.

"Some children, therefore, are living in dwelling units where the department has issued orders for the removal of the health hazard for as long as 12 months ago," Wallach said.

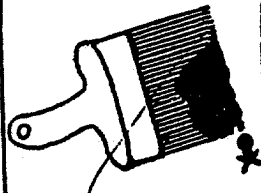
Wallach said the city would not charge persons on limited income for having the lead removed.

The city does plan to embark on a large scale lead paint removal. The legislation, amending present law, provides that the city act only in instances where a child has been identified as suffering from symptoms due to having eaten lead paint.

In its other provisions the amendment would bring city law up to federal standards going into effect June 22.

The committee recommended passage of the bill by Council as a whole, following yesterday's public hearing. The measure comes up for a vote in about two weeks.

If You Need Help...



For lead paint violations...

Call the City Health Department lead paint office, MU 6-7566. An inspector will make a free test of suspected lead paint and order the owner to remove it if found.

FEB 28 1970 -D

City Acts To Erase Lead Paint

By GUNTER DAVID
Of The Bulletin Staff

A bill that would allow the city to remove lead based paint from houses and apartments and then charge landlords for the expense was approved yesterday by a City Council committee.

Under the legislation, backed by the Health Department, the city would act when landlords balked at orders to get rid of the paint, especially harmful to children.

The bill, amending present law, also would allow court action against landlords who refuse to reimburse the city for paint removal.

Arthur Wallach, assistant health commissioner, urged passage of the bill at a hearing before council's Committee on Public Health and Welfare.

Wallach said there are many children in Philadelphia in great danger because they live in old houses or apartments with lead based paint on walls or woodwork.

He told the committee members this is because legal action brought by the city against landlords regarding lead based paint receive low priority in the courts.

"Some children, therefore, are living in dwelling units where the department has issued orders for the removal of the health hazard for as long as 12 months ago," Wallach said.

Wallach said the city would not charge persons on limited income for having the lead removed.

The city does plan to embark on a large scale lead paint removal. The legislation, amending present law, provides that the city act only in instances where a child has been identified as suffering from symptoms due to having eaten lead paint.

In its other provisions the amend-