

City of Buffalo

Common Council

April 20, 2016

Hon. John J. Mills
Erie County Legislature Chairperson
Old Erie County Hall
92 Franklin Street, Fourth Floor
Buffalo, N.Y. 14202

Dear Chairperson Mills,

We thank you and your colleagues for the invitation to attend the Finance and Management Committee's meeting on Thursday, April 21. Unfortunately we are unable to attend, but would like to take the opportunity to update your body on our approach to lead poisoning prevention.

As you are aware, The Erie County Department of Health is the lead agency for lead poisoning prevention. We are in full support of their work and County Executive Poloncarz's proposal to expand their impact by providing additional resources to inspect properties for the presence of lead and to provide intervention services for children who have between blood lead levels of 5-9 micrograms per deciliter.

The City of Buffalo Common Council recognizes that lead poisoning is a serious issue facing Buffalo and Erie County. While we are not the primary agency to address lead poisoning prevention, we have decided to take on a role to educate as many residents as we can. Education is a key component to preventing lead poisoning. In order to be effective in our goal of educating residents, we budgeted for \$65,000 in our 2015-16 Budget. The Council has produced a brochure available in all of our offices and it has been distributed through our community centers and points of contact in our district. We have also ordered over 1,400 home lead test kits to assist renters and home owners in identifying the presence of lead in their home. The kits & brochure are not a perfect solution, but are meant to assist the Department of Health, as residents who receive a positive reading or are concerned about possible lead poisoning will have accurate contact information for how to address the issue. The kits will be distributed following a training session at various community centers and trainers and distributors will stress a negative reading does not mean your home is 100% lead free. We are confident that the kits and brochures will increase awareness of the presence of lead and will assist the Department of Health in its inspection, prevention and intervention programs.

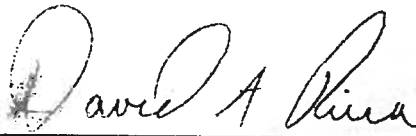
In addition to initiatives mentioned above, we are working with the Department of Health to get an overview of what their lead prevention programs entail and we are discussing the set-up of community meetings in each of our districts for residents and Health Inspectors to engage directly.

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We believe these education initiatives will complement and support the County's lead poisoning prevention programs, but we know it is not enough. That is why we strongly encourage you to approve the "Expanded Lead Poisoning Prevention Services" proposal and support the application for Federal support to greatly expand inspection, intervention, and remediation programs. We cannot afford to allow one more child to be poisoned by lead. We need to invest every dollar available into the safety of our children and our future. Thank you for your attention to addressing this vital issue.

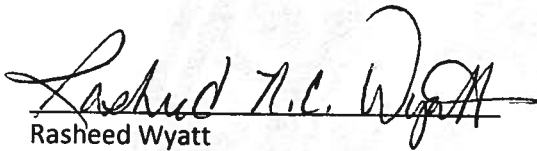
Sincerely,



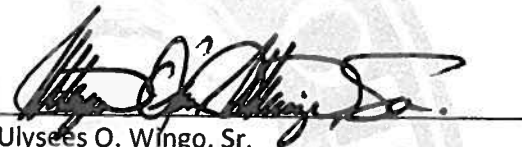
David A. Rivera, Majority Leader
Niagara District Council Member



Christopher P. Scanlon, President Pro-Tempore
South District Council Member



Rasheed Wyatt
University District Council Member



Ulysees O. Wingo, Sr.
Masten District Council Member