

Window Replacement Resolution

Minneapolis/Hennepin County Lead Poisoning Prevention Work Group

January 2007

Whereas exposure to lead by children under 6 years of age has neurodevelopmental effects that include lowered intelligence, shortened attention span, decreased coordination, aggressive behavior and learning disorders, and

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have determined that there is no evidence of a blood lead threshold below which adverse effects are not experienced, and

Whereas the cost of childhood lead exposure includes loss of lifetime productivity, health care costs and special education costs that have been estimated at \$1.223 billion per year in Minnesota, (Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, 2006) and

Whereas a groundbreaking Minnesota Department of Health study determined that the prevalence of elevated blood lead levels in rural areas is the same as the national prevalence rate, and

Whereas every Minnesota county has had at least one child with an elevated blood lead level each year for the last ten years, and

Whereas the primary source of elevated blood lead levels in children is lead paint on windows in homes built before 1960, and

Whereas the hazards of lead paint on windows will exist until the source of lead is permanently removed, and

Whereas the elimination of childhood lead poisoning by 2010 is an established state and federal goal, and

Whereas window replacement is a vital step for improving energy efficiency and providing a healthy home environment, and

Whereas replacing old, usually single paned, windows with high efficiency Minnesota made windows will:

- Eliminate the primary source of childhood blood lead from these homes forever
- Conserve energy and reduce utility costs
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Improve the housing stock, and
- Provide business for Minnesota manufacturers

Therefore be it resolved:

That the Minneapolis/Hennepin County Lead Poisoning Prevention Work Group requests that Governor Tim Pawlenty and the Minnesota State Legislature provide funding for a lead-painted window replacement loan fund available to owners of pre-1960 residential properties in Minnesota,

And be it further resolved that the loan fund should:

- Fund the replacement of lead painted windows with high energy efficiency Minnesota made windows
- Secure principle with property liens, payable upon sale or refinancing of the property
- Use repayments to fund additional loans
- Not charge interest on the loan amount
- Allow all owners of qualified properties to access the fund
- Provide for state purchasing of certified windows and administration of the loan fund, and local administration of eligibility and installation functions