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JEFFERSON COUNTY
HOUSE DISTRICT 31

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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November 1, 2022

Louisville Metro Council Members
601 West Jefferson Street
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

I write to you today as a mother, a Louisvillian, and a fellow policymaker to ask for your support of Ordinance O-134-22, providing protections from lead poisoning. We know that no amount of lead exposure is safe; children face devastating lifelong health and learning impacts from lead poisoning; and nearly 18,000 children under 6 in Jefferson County occupy rental housing that has an elevated risk of lead exposure. Yet, we have no process for identifying and addressing lead hazards in the homes our families rent.

It's past time for our community to protect our families from this present and preventable danger. Ordinance O-134-22 takes a vital step toward reducing the harm of lead poisoning in Louisville by establishing protocol for evaluating and mitigating lead hazards within the rental units at the greatest risk of exposure due to construction date and current upkeep. This critical measure acts on the realities that:

- In the past 16 years, 9,823 Jefferson County children experienced elevated blood-lead levels—a painfully high number that still represents only families who screened.
- Long-term impacts of lead poisoning prior to age 6 include impaired memory, decreased IQ and academic performance, impulsivity, hyperactivity, attention deficit, and other behavioral disorders.
- Childhood lead exposure is linked to devastating impacts on health and well-being into adulthood, including lowered educational attainment and income as well as increased rates of incarceration.
- Ordinance O-134-22 will codify the single most effective measure for preventing these outcomes—testing for, identifying, and removing sources of lead before children or adults are exposed—while also strengthening public health response options if a resident experiences elevated blood-lead levels while renting a home.

COMMITTEES

Agriculture • Appropriations and Revenue • Health, Welfare, and Family Services • Tourism, Small Business and Information Technology
Budget Review Subcommittee on General Government, Finance, Personnel and Public Retirement • Child Welfare Oversight and Advisory

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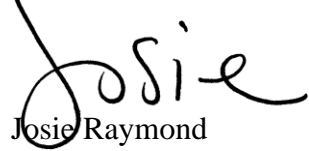
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This legislation is grounded in research that shows cities with proactive inspection policies have reported lead poisoning cases decreasing at twice the rate of those nearby without proactive policies. It also strategically targets testing and risk-reduction requirements to properties with the greatest likelihood of lead hazards, ensuring effectiveness and efficiency in implementation.

With each of the perspectives I write from today—mother, Louisvillian, policymaker—I see the imperative for Ordinance O-134-22. I urge you to take this vital step to protect our families today and keep our community safe long into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J" that extends upwards and to the left.

Josie Raymond
State Representative
House District 41

JR/gm

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