

PROCLAMATION
Lead Poisoning Awareness and Prevention Week
October 21st – 27th, 2007

- WHEREAS, *Lead poisoning is acknowledged by the States Surgeon General as the number one environmental health hazard for Michigan children; and,*
- WHEREAS, *Michigan ranks among the top six states for childhood lead poisoning; and,*
- WHEREAS, *The major source of lead exposure among children still remains lead-based paint in housing built prior to 1978 and lead-contaminated dust found in the nearly 1.3 million occupied housing units in Michigan containing lead paint hazards; and,*
- WHEREAS, *85.2% (17,937 homes) of the housing stock in Ann Arbor was built prior to 1978, with approximately 9965 children under the age of 6 living in them; and,*
- WHEREAS, *755 children have been tested for elevated blood lead levels in the City of Ann Arbor, with 13% of those children testing positive for lead poisoning ; and,*
- WHEREAS, *Small children are at the greatest risk. Children are highly sensitive because their bodies, nervous systems and brains are still rapidly developing, and although rates of lead poisoning statistically are higher among low-income children, lead poisoning can affect any family regardless of socioeconomic group, geographic area, or racial or ethnic population; and,*
- WHEREAS, *Poisoning by lead-based paint, household dust and other sources is entirely preventable; and,*
- WHEREAS, *Lead poisoning awareness and prevention activities help protect the citizens of Ann Arbor, especially our children. To be successful, efforts to reduce childhood lead poisoning must begin with a heightened awareness on the part of all citizens about the dangers of lead hazards; and,*
- WHEREAS, *Information on lead poisoning and awareness is available by contacting the Office of Community Development; Additionally, financial and technical assistance for lead hazard remediation may also be available to qualified City property owners of housing units occupied or visited by children six years old and under, by contacting The Office Of Community Development at 622-9025.*

*NOW THEREFORE, I, John Hiefertje, Mayor of Ann Arbor, Michigan, do hereby proclaim the week of October 21st – 27th, 2007, as **Lead Poisoning Awareness and Prevention Week**, and I encourage the citizens of Ann Arbor to become aware of the sources of lead poisoning and the measures to prevent exposure.*

*I hereby set my hand and seal
This 21st day of October, 2007*

John Hiefertje, Mayor