



PRESS CONFERENCE

TODAY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2019

1:30 PM

CLEVELAND CITY HALL (OUTSIDE FRONT ENTRANCE)

601 LAKESIDE AVENUE – CLEVELAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 15, 2018

CLEVELAND LEAD ADVOCATES FOR SAFE HOUSING KICK OFF PETITION DRIVE TO PUT “LEAD SAFE” INITIATIVE PROPOSAL ON NOVEMBER BALLOT. WILL FILE PETITION DOCUMENT WITH CITY COUNCIL CLERK TODAY.

Cleveland, OH -- Cleveland Lead Advocates for Safe Housing (CLASH) will announce today the kick off of its petition drive to get its “Lead Safe” Cleveland ordinance proposal on the November 2019 ballot. CLASH members, following a press conference on the front steps of City Hall, will go to the Cleveland City Council office to file its petition document with the City Council Clerk as notification of the start of the initiative petition effort as provided for in the Cleveland City Charter (Chapter 7). 5,000 signatures from Cleveland registered voters are required for a proposed city law to be voted on by citizens.

CLASH will be ramping up its canvassing efforts in the coming weeks, beginning with a canvass tomorrow, Saturday February 16th at 10 AM at the West Side Market.

The proposed ordinance and ballot initiative would require that all city rental properties and day care centers built before 1978 be tested for lead hazards and be certified as “Lead Safe” by 2021. It also includes protections for tenants, creation of a City fund for public and private contributions to assist landlords and other requirements that will educate the public about the dangers of lead poisoning to our City’s children.

CLASH will continue to urge Cleveland City Council to pass its proposal while it collects citizens’ signatures and support. But if City Council refuses to pass a lead safe housing bill, CLASH will file the completed petitions to trigger a public vote this fall.

“Too many continue to talk but not act, saying we should wait to solve this health crisis in Cleveland. We cannot!” says Yvonka Hall, CLASH member and Director of Outreach for the Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus. “The City and civic leaders said they were committed to addressing lead at their press conference on January 22nd, but we still haven’t seen a timeline for action. While we’ve waited, 92 Cleveland children have tested positive, and the number is rising at the rate of 4 children every day. A lead safe housing bill will prevent future children from being poisoned. The time is now to act and save lives!”

ABOUT CLEVELAND LEAD ADVOCATES FOR SAFE HOUSING

Cleveland Lead Advocates for Safe Housing (CLASH) is dedicated to protecting the most vulnerable citizens in the City of Cleveland. Member organizations include the Cleveland Lead Safe Network, Single Payer Access Network, Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus, Black Lives Matter of Cuyahoga County, Cleveland End Poverty Now Coalition, Organize!Ohio, Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless and the Cleveland Democratic Socialists of America.

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