RESOLUTION

No. 2020

By Commissioner McCormick

WHEREAS, the Wayne County Commission seeks to assure that Detroit and Wayne County children have the best opportunity to grow and thrive; and

WHEREAS, children under six years of age living in Detroit and Highland Park have inordinately high levels of lead in their blood system; and

WHEREAS, several Detroit area zip codes have a child lead poisoning rate of over 10 percent, including Highland Park at 14.8 percent, while the state of Michigan has a rate of just 2.9 percent; and

WHEREAS, lead poisoning in children causes lifelong deficits including decreased cognitive capacity, slowed learning, impaired hearing and speech and tendencies toward hyperactivity; and

WHEREAS, children who have experienced lead poisoning are seven times more likely to drop out of high school and four times more likely to enter the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the preponderance of older, deteriorating housing stock in Detroit (90 percent built before 1980) and Wayne County (84 percent built before 1980) makes the danger of failing lead paint and lead dust a health crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has stated “No amount of lead in the body is considered safe”; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that all children in Wayne County be tested for lead and not only those individuals currently insured through Medicaid or children living in targeted lead communities; and

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Wayne County Commission on this 7th day of October 2020 strongly urge that all children to be tested in Wayne County for

levels of lead in their system and that data sharing be implemented so that all partners throughout the city, county and state of Michigan can better coordinate prevention and lead remediation services and that a suitable copy be presented to each level of government; and, further be it

RESOLVED, that the Wayne County Commission ensure that the Lead Renovation, Repair, Painting Program be instituted and that contractors exercise safe practices when conducting projects involving lead-based paint to reduce lead exposure and that no child in Michigan be left vulnerable to the impacts of lead poisoning.