

# Lead is Poisoning Your Children

Fact Sheet for the 9<sup>th</sup> Council District



**45%**

of all children **have been appropriately screened for lead poisoning.**

**1/10**

children in some parts of the District **suffer from lead poisoning\*.**

**62%**

of Philadelphia children **are exposed to toxic lead in rental housing.**

## Ms. Pinnock, a **Parent**

Ms. Pinnock's son tested positive for lead at one year old. The source, the deteriorated lead paint in their apartment. Now at age six, her son's speech and language are delayed, he struggles to spell and remember his last name, and he has been placed in a special education program.



## Arthur Meckler, a **Model Landlord**

Arthur Meckler is a landlord, and the safety of his tenants, and most importantly their young children, are of great concern to him. He is willing to undertake whatever testing or remediation is necessary to keep children safe.



## Shirley's Painting, Lead Abatement & Interim Control Contractor, **Expert Business**

Shirley's Painting, Lead Abatement & Interim Control Contractor at 4555 Wayne Ave. has been inspecting homes for lead hazards and removing them for over 41 years. They have worked in homes across the city, primarily where children have been poisoned by lead.



*“We aren't doing enough to protect children”*

**“I've seen the effects of lead poisoning first-hand on kids as a result of landlords failing to properly maintain and adhere to the current lead law. The safety of children is my number one focus.”**

—Shirley Hall, owner of Shirley's Painting, Lead Abatement & Interim Control Contractor

## Lead Hazard Remediation Can Yield \$3 for Every \$1 Spent

Beyond direct protection of children, experts estimate that each dollar invested in lead paint hazard control provides significant returns to taxpayers by avoiding government spending on healthcare and special education and boosts the lifetime earnings of children who otherwise would have stunted potential due to lead poisoning.

## The Current Lead Law Is Unenforceable

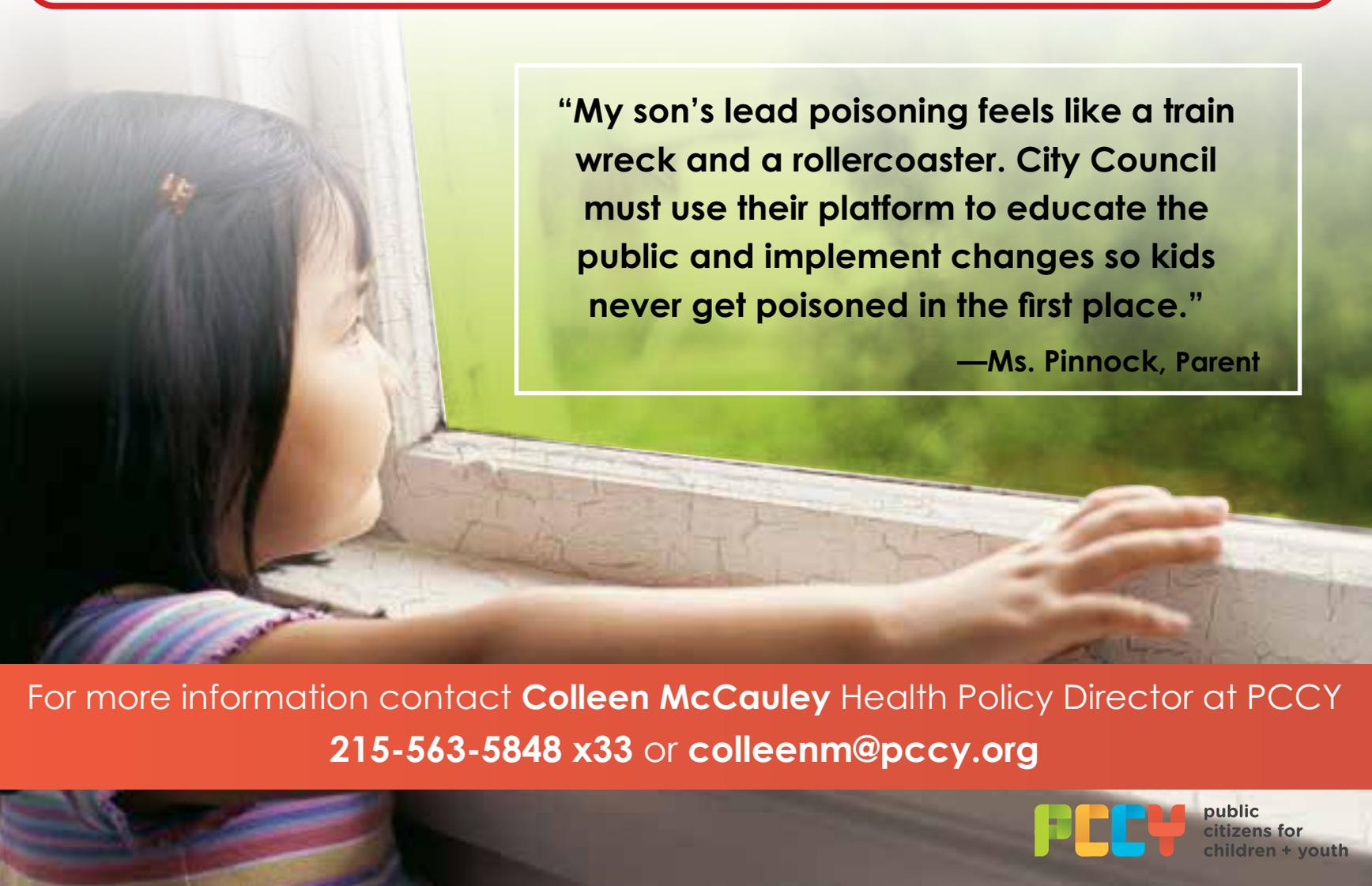
Too many landlords are not complying with the current law. Only a quarter of all rental units in the City covered by the current law are in compliance. That's because the law is largely unenforceable since there is no record of tenants' ages at the time of new occupancy to identify which pre-1978 rental properties need to be in compliance with the law.

## Making the Lead Law Universal Will Protect 9th District Babies

To address the law's shortcomings, the Mayor's advisory group on lead poisoning recommended requiring all pre-1978 rental properties to comply, including Section 8 and Philadelphia Housing Authority units. Bill #180936, passed out of Council's Health Committee on March 19, includes this requirement.

## Call Your Council Member

Please call your District 9 City Council member, Cherelle Parker, and ask her to make sure every rental unit is lead-safe for babies, at 215-686-3454.



**“My son’s lead poisoning feels like a train wreck and a rollercoaster. City Council must use their platform to educate the public and implement changes so kids never get poisoned in the first place.”**

**—Ms. Pinnock, Parent**

For more information contact **Colleen McCauley** Health Policy Director at PCCY  
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