

July 12, 2012.

Mr. Martin Rosenblatt,
160 West 97th Street
New York City
New York
10025

Dear Mr. Rosenblatt,

CREDENTIALS:

I am a Professor of Pediatrics and Head of the Division of Environmental Sciences at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore Medical Center and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where I am Director of our Multi-disciplinary Lead Program. In this position, I have supervised the treatment of over 30,000 lead poisoned children over the past three decades. I have also assessed the health of over 5,000 adults, who were excessively exposed to lead in a community-wide environment (Tar Creel, OK; Bunker Hill, ID; Chicago, IL and New Orleans, LA). Our group of 8 health professionals is primarily focused on the treatment, management, diagnosis, and outcomes and prevention of childhood lead poisoning. Our group has published about 80 peer-reviewed articles on this subject.

The opinions expressed in this letter are based upon review of soil lead data (surface and core samples) obtained from a parking lot between 784 Columbus Avenue and PS 163 on 97th Street. The soil samples were obtained by Mr. Rosenblatt collaboratively with Mr. Laurence Molloy, A Bachelor of Architecture, a member of the Institute of Industrial Hygiene and NIOSH 582 Air Technician.

If more information becomes available, the opinions stated in this letter may be modified.

THE SITE AND HISTORY OF THE PARKING LOT:

This parking lot has been used for private cars since the early 1950s to the present. Over this long time frame, it is reasonable to conclude (based on data summarized below) that leaded gasoline seeped deeply into soil underlying this parking lot. This occurred until the phase-down in leaded gasoline in the US in 1996.

The parking lot is contiguous to PS 163, the Lubavitch School, 744, 788 and 808 Columbus Avenue and the Stonehenge Village(160 West 97th Street).

RESULTS OF SOIL LEAD SAMPLING:

****Surface samples** were elevated to 1044 and 443 PPM. Seven other samples were below 400 PPM..

*****Core samples**(6 inches deep) revealed four elevated samples at 400, 410, 621 and 760 PPM.

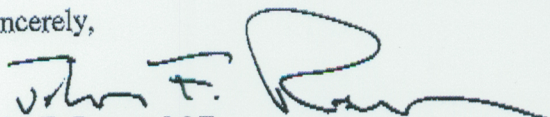
HUMAN POPULATIONS AT RISK FOR ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD FROM THESE ELEVATED SOIL LEAD DATA:

According to the National Toxicology Program of the Department of Health and Human Services(11/16-17/11), as well as the CDC(2007, 2011, 2012) and the American Academy of Pediatrics(1993, 1998, 2005, 2012), dispersion locally of these lead contaminated dusts, into academic and residential buildings nearby, can cause adverse health effects in children under 72 months of age, such as developmental--cognitive impairments, neurobehavioral disturbances, loss in IQ points and ADHD at blood lead levels greater than 4 ug/dl. Pregnant women are also at risk, because the developing fetus is uniquely susceptible to adverse health effects of lead on brain development(above 4 ug/dl); and blood lead levels above 4 ug/dl are connected to high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease in both adult males and females(above the child bearing age). In these populations, adverse health effects of lead, as noted above, are permanent and irreversible.

It is also established that there is no safe level of lead in young children(CDC 2007, 2011, 2012; US EPA 2006; National Toxicology Program 2011, American Academy of Pediatrics 2012.

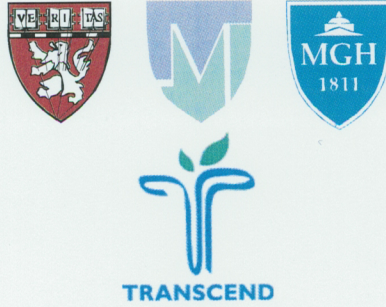
Dispersion of lead contaminated dusts and particles of soil has the potential to cause adverse health effects noted above.

Sincerely,


John F. Rosen, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics
Head, Division of Environmental Sciences
The Children's Hospital at Montefiore
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

Martha R. Herbert, Ph.D., M.D.
Assistant Professor, Pediatric Neurology
Director, TRANSCEND Research Program
www.transcendresearch.org
transcend@partners.org



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging
149 13th Street, Room 10.018
Boston, Massachusetts 02129
Phone: (617) 724-5920
Fax: (617) 812-6334
mherbert1@partners.org

October 2, 2012

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a pediatric neurologist and neuroimaging researcher at the Harvard Medical School, where I am Assistant Professor of Neurology, and at the Massachusetts General Hospital, where I am a neuroscience researcher at the Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging and Director of the TRANSCEND Research Program.

I have taken great interest in environmental impacts on neurodevelopment and health and have a number of published papers on this topic.

You are receiving a letter from Dr. John Rosen who is eminently experienced and qualified to assess risks to children from lead exposure and I concur with his expert assessment.

My concern is that according to a recent CDC Report there does not appear to be any safe lead level. I am including links to report as well as to the New York Times and Atlantic Magazine reports on this subject.

http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/acclpp/cdc_response_lead_exposure_recs.pdf
<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/17/nyregion/cdc-lowers-recommended-lead-level-limits-in-children.html>
<http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2012/01/any-lead-is-too-much-lead/251226/>

Neurotoxicology has greatly evolved so that any complacency about safety below a given level of exposure is now open to question, both because of specific findings and because of remarkable developments in epigenetics which indicate that exceedingly low levels of exposures can impact gene expression with lifelong and even intergenerational impacts.

The public oversight of requests for construction needs to take the public welfare and health as its primary consideration. It is scientifically, medically, and ethically critical to be aware of the most recent understandings of risk.

Lead exposure causes harm not only to impacted children but to society which has to deal with the loss of intelligence via lower IQ scores across its population, the behavioral problems, the increased potential for individuals with higher lead exposure to get involved in criminal behavior, as well as vulnerability to chronic health conditions as more.

I implore you to keep all these considerations in mind and to act as a gatekeeper with high standards for public safety that you require to be met.

Yours truly,

Martha Herbert, PhD, MD

Winthrop Occupational & Environmental Medicine

1300 Franklin Avenue, Suite UL-4A

Garden City, New York 11530

Tel: 516-663-8890

Fax: 516-663-9528

Marc Wilkenfeld, MD

10/16/2012

Martin Rosenblatt
160 W 97th St Apt 11B
New York, NY 10023

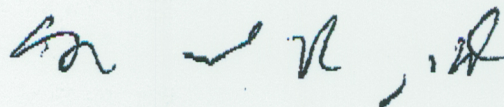
Dear Mr. Rosenblatt:

You had requested that I review the information you provided regarding soil lead level results obtained from the parking lot between 784 Columbus and PS 163. This location is on 97th Street and Manhattan.

The topsoil showed elevated lead levels at 1,044.2 mg/kg at 442.6 mg/kg. There are also core samples for April 28, which showed levels of 621.3 and 760. Finally, there was a core sample taken on 05/31/2012, which showed 410 mg/kg.

As I understand it, construction at the site will create a dusty environment. There will be children, as well as adults, with potential exposure to the dust created. As you know, the health effects of lead have been delineated and lead is considered a dangerous substance, particularly for children. I would agree that it would be advisable for the EPA to control environmental investigation at the site before any construction begins.

I hope this information is useful to you.



Marc Wilkenfeld, M.D.

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Center for Health, Environment & Justice

P.O. Box 6806 • Falls Church, VA 22040 • Phone: 703.237.2249 • Fax: 703.237.8389 • www.chej.org

October 4, 2012

Albina De Meio
Vice President
Park West Village Tenants' Association
Member of the Working Group NoJHLatPWV
788 Columbus Ave
New York, NY 10025

Dear Ms De Meio:

I have reviewed the documents that Martin Rosenblatt forwarded to me regarding the lead contamination found in samples collected from a parking lot in your neighborhood that has been proposed as the location for construction of a new health care facility. As I'm sure you know this parking lot is within a residential apartment complex and adjacent to a public school.

A number of samples were collected in the parking lot area from both surface and subsurface soil and analyzed for lead. The concentration found in surface soil ranged from a low of 95.5 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) or parts per million (ppm) to a high of 1,044.2 mg/kg. Subsurface soil samples were collected on two separate occasions. For samples collected on April 28, 2012, the subsurface concentration ranged from 82.1 mg/kg to 621.3 mg/kg using one analytical method and from 110 mg/kg to 760 mg/kg using a different analytical method. For the samples collected on May 31, 2012, the subsurface concentration ranged from less than 40 mg/kg to 410 mg/kg.

It is clear from this limited testing that there are "hot spots" of lead contamination in both the surface and subsurface soil at the location of the parking lot. As you may be aware the New York State Department of Health has established a soil cleanup level for unrestricted residential use for lead in soil of 400 mg/kg. The USEPA Region 3 has established the same value. The concentration of lead in several of the samples collected from surface and subsurface soil exceed this value. Additional testing is certainly needed to establish the extent of lead contamination at this site prior to the start of construction for a new building. Construction will significantly disturb the soil at the site and spread lead contaminated soil to property adjacent to this site, including the elementary school and the apartment complex.

I fully support the need for a full environmental investigation of the lead contamination at the proposed location for the construction of a new health care facility. There needs to be a much better understanding of the potential risks posed by disturbing the soil at this site before any construction should begin.

Sincerely,

Stephen Lester
Science Director