

"What Assurance does the Public have of ACCOUNTABILITY (& 'Transparency') by the City of Austin in the use of Federal 'Stimulus Funds'?"

Marc Ott
Austin City Manager

Dear Mr. Ott:

The attached portion of the May 25, 1999 Lead Paint Specialist's report may not have been included within the information that I sent you yesterday.

This is additional information that I wanted to be sure you had in relation to my letter of February 28, 2009.

Included within the specialist's report are the result's of my home's lead paint dust levels taken in **1999** (You may recall that last Fall 2008, the Assistant City Manager, David Lurie wrote me, alleging that CoA records reflected that *"in the **mid-1990's** [my] home was rehabilitated thru the Austin Housing Finance Corporation's single-family home repair program."*) **These lead paint dust results of my home, and the attendant photos were taken in 1999 -- after the time in which the City alleges to have 'rehabilitated' my home** (in fact the CoA project was abandoned by the CoA contractor and CoA never resumed the project).

As a baseline, the following reflects E.P.A recommended limits for lead-paint dust vs. the levels of lead-paint dust at my home per the specialist's report:

(1) E.P.A. limits for lead-based paint dust:

- A child's outside play area = **200ppm**
- Interior = **800 p/ug**

(2) Lead Paint dust Levels at Ms. Chambers' home:

- Our home's yard soil = as high as **11,900 p/ug**
- Our **kitchen** = as high as **64,600 p/ug**

Mr. Ott, as you are already aware per my July 31, '08 letter, these results (and previous ones) were immediately disclosed to the City. My representative followed up with a letter, requesting that COA please remove its lien, which enforced (with Power of Sale) a mandatory residence requirement upon me and my family. **My son was a toddler when CoA contaminated our home.** In spite of these facts presented to CoA at that time, CoA not only refused to alleviate the documented hazards at my home, but CoA also continued to enforce its mandatory residence requirement upon my family and I. Therefore, CoA knowingly required a small child to live in a dangerously toxic and hazardous environment for no less than 6.5 years.

To expand on some of the points within my 2/28/2009 letter to you:

- (1)** I mentioned that a sampling of CoA housing 'rehab' projects (which fall under the CoA's **'Homestead Preservation' initiatives**) roughly implied that approximately **48 clients of the estimated 115 projects** cannot be contacted at the project address -- and in fact it appears that some lots were vacant, devoid of a home at all.
- (2)** Additionally, of the **CoA Environmental Checklists** (which typically involved projects w/ homes built prior to 1978) that were sampled, **83% revealed that CoA project specialists either left the answer blank, or checked "N/A"** for the question: *"does the home contain lead-based paint?"*

CoA knew what the situation was and despite that knowledge, not only did CoA **not** alleviate the situation, but over and beyond that, CoA forced us (including a small child) to live in a toxic house for no less that 6.5 years.

Mr. Ott, I'm bringing these matters once again to your attention in order to make clear to you the seriousness of the situation and the consequences of COA's actions/inaction so that you are aware.

Cordially,
Allissa Chambers