



City of Detroit
Detroit City Council
Council Member Angela Whitfield Calloway
District 2

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Whitaker, Legislative Policy Division

FROM: Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway *AWC*

DATE: August 25, 2022

RE: Requesting Financial Assessment for Mom and Pop Lead Abatement

According to the recent Detroit Future City report “Understanding the Rental Landscape” the largest percentage of (70%) of landlords in the city (29,410) are small landlords owning no more than two properties (40% of rental properties, 30% of rental units) in the city of Detroit. Our office for future intents and purposes will classify this group as “Mom and Pop” landlords.

One of the most significant barriers to compliance for “Mom and Pop” property owners is the cost for mandated lead abatement. As most homes in Detroit were built before 1970, before the transition from lead-based systems, it would mean that most landlords in the city would have to abate for lead if they have not done so already. Abatement of this scale is not only important to the physical health of our residents but the general health of an ecosystem that supports responsible homeownership, especially as it pertains to Landlord-Tenant relations. Yet the reality is that the cost of lead abatement would have significant financial burden on our “Mom and Pop” landlords.

As a measure toward finding solutions – as there are local, county, state, and federal grants to provide funding assistance for lead abatement – our office would like to request a financial assessment of the approx. cost to cover abatement for the approximate 43,018 “Mom and Pop” properties/units in the City of Detroit.

Cc: Gail Fulton, City Council Liaison

Please contact our office if you have any questions or concerns – Ramses Dukes,
ramses.dukes@detroitmi.gov