

**Administrative Inspection Warrants  
Speak to Council 12/23/08**

The Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning (CPLP) has made great strides in lowering the lead levels in many of our children blood in the City of Rochester, also has created awareness of what we call the “Invisible Monster” and the dangers of lead exposure to our kids that can cause permanent brain damage.

One of the issues that we face to make homes and residences lead safe by 2010 is gaining access to properties. By addressing lead issues in a residential unit we allow ourselves to do two things, 1). Identify lead hazards in the unit for remediation and 2). If there are children under the age of six, we can refer them to have their blood tested for lead.

We have many good property owners in the 14621 neighborhood and in the City of Rochester, but; and there is always the but; there are some property owners that may have lost the insight into the damage that a poor quality living environment can do to the psychological prosperity of the children and their families in some uncared-for living units.

But let us not stop at lead issues, we have plumbing, electrical, roofing, broken stairs, widows, dilapidated walls within the structure and yes, mold. How about smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and viable escape routes in case of an emergency? These are but a few of the issues we see in some of our structures and at times the tenants themselves do not want to give access to a property because of the fear of future repercussions that may hamper their ability to move to another location for divulging information.

In closing, Council members, as you move forward on this resolution keeping in mind the rights of property owners, I urge you also to keep in mind that we should protect the rights of those who benefit from paying and living in this type of affordable housing to keep them healthy and safe as well.

Eugenio Cotto, Jr., Executive Director  
Group 14621 Community Association, Inc.