**Upcoming Healthy Housing Legislation**

Join Children’s Law Center to advocate healthier and safer housing for all DC residents

**November 18, 2019 at 11am: *The Lead Hazard Prevention and Elimination Act of 2019***

The Act requires:

* More frequent lead inspections in rental housing which will catch hazardous conditions *before* they harm children
* Landlords to provide a lead clearance report to all prospective tenants (current law only requires report when new tenant includes a pregnant woman or child under six)
* More effective tests for lead dust
* DC government would have the ability to deny business licenses to landlords who violate lead laws
* Tenants would have the ability to take their landlord to court to recover damages or force their landlord to make the property lead safe

Join us for our briefing on **November 5th, 2019 at 2 pm** to learn more.

* Please email BLogan@childrenslawcenter.org to RSVP (in person and remote access options available)
* If you want to testify, call or email Ms. Aukima Benjamin (Staff Assistant to the Committee) ABenjamin@dccouncil.us, (202) 724-8062. Written testimony due by December 2nd, 2019.

**November 18, 2019 at 1pm: *Joint Public Oversight Hearing of the Committee of the Whole and Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety on “Agency Responses to Code Violations and the Subsequent Fire at 708 Kennedy Street N.W.”***

This hearing will discuss the third-party review which details the factors that contributed to the Kennedy Street fire tragedy and will also include a broader discussion regarding code enforcement.

* If you want to testify email cow@dcouncil.us or call Blaine Stum, Legislative Policy Advisor, at (202) 724-8092. Written testimony is due by November 14th, 2019.

**December 10, 2019 (tentative): *Hearing on OIG Report on* *Department of Buildings Act***

This hearing is on a yet-to-be released report by the Office the Inspector General on the pending Department of Buildings Act. The Department of Buildings Act breaks up DCRA and removes housing code enforcement, among other functions, into a new agency. Advocates have worked on a proposal to improve the legislation to ensure that there is strategic and meaningful enforcement that includes a public health lens. More information is attached.

* Join us for our briefing on November 19th, 2019 at 2 pm to learn more. Please email eoquendo@childrenslawcenter.org to RSVP (remote and in person options are available).

**December 12, 2019 (tentative): *Indoor Mold Remediation Enforcement Amendment Act of 2019***

The Act improves upon DC’s existing mold law by:

* Requiring DCRA to issue violations to landlords if a tenant’s home has been found to have 10 or more square feet of indoor mold
* Requires all DCRA housing inspectors to be certified by the Department of Energy to conduct indoor mold assessment and remediation

**December 19, 2019: *The Bedbug Control Act of 2019***

The Act changes the current extermination/infestation requirements in the law by requiring:

* Landlords to apply continuous eradication measures until the bedbugs or other insects are eradicated
* Landlords to provide notice to incoming tenants of bedbug infestation of the prior year in the unit or the building
* Landlords must file a report with DCRA and provide notice to tenants about history of bedbug infestation in building, eradication measures employed, and their results
* Within two days of a complaint, the landlord must provide written confirmation of receipt and start eradication. Within two days, the landlord must provide notice of the complaint to any adjacent units (sharing wall, floor, or ceiling) and schedule an inspection
* Provides DCRA a right of inspection and requires bedbugs or other insect pest eradication measures for any dwelling after a report from an occupant of an adjacent unit if there is
	+ 1. Documented evidence of at least three infestations within two years in the complaining party’s dwelling AND
	+ 2. There is an affidavit from a licensed exterminator saying the source of the infestation is outside the affected unit
* Establishes a Bedbug Remediation Assistance Fund, providing grants of up to $500 to homeowners to assist in remediation of bedbug or other insect infestation
* If you want to testify, contact Malcolm Cameron, Committee Legislative Analyst at (202) 654-6179 or mcameron@dccouncil.us.

**January, 2020: *Tenant and Homeowner Accountability and Protection Amendment Act of 2019***

This Act has many components, the most relevant include that it:

* Requires use of public health data for strategic housing inspections
* Increases the number of housing inspectors by requiring one for every 2,000 occupied residential housing units
* Requires that notices of violations are shared with tenants in addition to landlords
* If there is a pattern of violations, those cases can be referred to the Attorney General
* Requires landlords to maintain a valid and updated basic business license to evict tenants or increase the rent, which will help poorly regulated rentals come out of the shadows, and ensure tenants know who to reach when issues arise in their building
* Expands environmental testing for mold, mildew and radon
* Requires documents related to zoning decisions to be posted online and shared with ANC’s within 48 hours