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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND CIVIL SERVICE

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, November 15, 2005
10:30 a.m.

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PRESENT:

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA

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COUNCILMAN JUAN RAMOS, CHAIRMAN

COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.

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COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE

COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY

13

COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI

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BILL 050748 - An ordinance amending Title 6 of
The Philadelphia Code by adding Chapter 6-900,
relating to mold inspections...

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RESOLUTION 050772 - Resolution authorizing the
Committee on Labor and Civil Service to hold
public hearings to investigate the prevalence
and problem of mold...

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COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Good

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morning, everyone. This is the public

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hearing for the Committee on Labor and

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Civil Service. We have a quorum, so I

6

would like to get started. To my right,

7

Councilman Jim Kenney, Councilman Frank

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DiCicco, Councilman Wilson Goode, Jr. To

9

my left, the President of City Council,

10

Anna Verna.

11

I am Juan Ramos, Chair of the

12

Committee. Mr. Goode is the Vice-Chair

13

of this Committee.

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Thank you for serving as

15

Vice-Chair.

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Before we start, I would like

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to note for the record that Bill No.

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050795, at the request of the sponsor, is

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being held today, so this Committee will

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not be taking testimony regarding that

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bill.

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I would ask the Clerk to please

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read both the title of the ordinance and

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resolution.

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THE CLERK: Bill 050748, an

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2 ordinance amending Title 6 of The
3 Philadelphia Code by adding Chapter
4 6-900, relating to mold inspections;
5 providing for licensing of residential
6 mold inspectors; and requiring buyers of
7 residential properties to have a licensed
8 mold inspector conduct a comprehensive
9 mold inspection if a home inspection
10 identifies mold or water intrusion; all
11 under certain terms and conditions; and

12 Resolution 050722, authorizing
13 the Committee on Labor and Civil Service
14 to hold public hearings to investigate
15 the prevalence and problem of mold and
16 further investigate ways to set standards
17 to help the citizens of the City of
18 Philadelphia with mold and mold
19 remediation.

20 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Thank you.

21 The first witness to testify
22 this morning is Mr. Izzat Melhem. He's
23 the Assistant Manager of Environmental
24 Health Services in the Department of
25 Public Health.

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2 Good morning, Mr. Melhem. Will
3 you please state your name for the record
4 and proceed with your testimony.

5 MR. MELHEM: Yes. Good
6 morning, Councilman. My name is Izzat
7 Melhem.

8 Good morning, Chairman Ramos
9 and members of the Committee on Labor and
10 Civil Service. My name is Izzat Melhem.
11 I'm the Assistant Director of
12 Environmental Health Services with the
13 Department of Public Health. Thank you
14 for the opportunity to present testimony
15 on the proposed ordinance amending Title
16 6 of The Philadelphia Code by adding
17 Chapter 6-900, relating to mold
18 inspections of residential property.

19 One of the responsibilities of
20 the Department of Public Health is to
21 investigate environmental conditions that
22 will lead to the spread of communicable
23 disease or injury. In this role, we
24 respond to requests from the public and
25 other City agencies to investigate

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2 complaints of unsanitary or unsafe
3 conditions in public places and in
4 establishments to which the public has
5 access.

6 With some exceptions,
7 health-related conditions in residential
8 units fall under the City's Property
9 Maintenance Code, the provisions of which
10 are enforced by the Department of
11 Licenses and Inspections.

12 The Department of Public Health
13 does provide consultation to Philadelphia
14 residents, both property owners and
15 rental unit occupants, on health-related
16 issues such as insect and rodent control,
17 indoor air problems or mold growth.

18 The Department receives a
19 number of calls on indoor mold growth
20 issues, which have increased over the
21 past five years from an average of one
22 call per month to one per day, which
23 shows a marked increase in awareness of
24 possible health-related effects of indoor
25 mold growth.

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2 While most molds found indoors
3 are not actually toxic to humans, persons
4 can be allergic to molds, and exposure to
5 molds are known to exacerbate asthma in
6 humans, highlighting the need for
7 requirements for mold inspections and
8 certification of mold remediation
9 inspectors.

10 Conditions related to poor
11 maintenance such as the infiltration of
12 moisture from leaking plumbing or roofs
13 will support the abundant growth of mold
14 indoors. Mold spores, which are
15 invisible, are ubiquitous to the indoor
16 and outdoor environment. Because no
17 quantifiable governmental standards have
18 been established for mold exposure, the
19 observation of the presence of visible
20 mold by a qualified mold inspector is a
21 standard criteria currently in practice.

22 Passage of this bill will be a
23 beginning for the Department of Public
24 Health in the development and adoption of
25 regulations that will protect home buyers

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2 in Philadelphia from purchasing a
3 property with an existing indoor mold
4 problem. Prior to purchase, if a home
5 inspection reveals evidence of water
6 intrusion or visible mold growth, this
7 bill ensures that a mold inspection will
8 be conducted and by a certified mold
9 inspector. It is for these reasons that
10 the Department of Public Health supports
11 passage of this bill.

12 Mechanisms through which the
13 Department will address specifics such as
14 the notification processes, enforcement
15 for failure to comply with the mold
16 inspection requirement and monitoring
17 compliance with the regulation will need
18 to be addressed.

19 If this bill is passed,
20 Philadelphia will be joining the states
21 of California and Texas and the City of
22 New York in being on the forefront of
23 passing legislation on indoor mold.
24 Legislation to address mold in the indoor
25 environment has been proposed and task

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2 forces have been convened in several
3 other states as well.

4 That's my testimony. If you
5 have any questions, I'd be glad to answer
6 them.

7 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Thank you so
8 much for your testimony. For the record,
9 I believe we circulated your version of
10 your testimony that we got yesterday, and
11 I think that, for the record, there were
12 some changes in the final paragraph or so
13 of your testimony; is that correct?

14 MR. MELHEM: That is correct.
15 I received this -- the final version was
16 rewritten and sent back to me by our
17 Commissioner's office.

18 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Understood.
19 Can you please answer why the change and
20 what was the difference?

21 MR. MELHEM: I apologize for
22 the change and for you not having an
23 updated version of the testimony. I
24 don't know the exact reason for the
25 change, to be honest with you. I think

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2 it was just slightly reworded, if my
3 understanding is correct. I think it was
4 just a matter of how it was worded.

5 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Yes. I
6 think when you continued to read, it
7 seems like you got into, and correct me
8 if I'm wrong, just a further explanation
9 of your reasoning for the support of this
10 legislation.

11 MR. MELHEM: That is correct.
12 I think we kind of wanted to clarify that
13 and try to, I guess, make it easy to see
14 why we're supporting this.

15 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Are there
16 any questions for this witness from
17 Committee members?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Do you see
20 yourself continuing to be involved, apart
21 from your support for this piece of
22 legislation and hoping that this
23 legislation passes in this body? Do you
24 see yourself more involved -- there's
25 more to do besides what the legislation

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2 calls upon at this time.

3 MR. MELHEM: Well, personally,
4 yes, and as part of the organization,
5 absolutely. You know, as I said, we've
6 been receiving more and more calls,
7 whether they be complaints or just
8 requests for information, on mold and
9 mold exposure, and I think what we're
10 really trying to keep an eye on is the
11 national trend in dealing with this
12 issue, because as I stated in my
13 testimony, there are currently no
14 standards for exposure to mold. And the
15 way we're going right now, and it seems
16 the trend in other jurisdictions, is to
17 make people more aware of it and try to
18 make them aware of the fact that exposure
19 to this may or may not have an effect,
20 but that it's not a good thing to be
21 sharing an environment with mold.

22 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Thank you,
23 Mr. Melhem, for your testimony this
24 morning.

25 MR. MELHEM: It was my

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2 pleasure, and thank you for the
3 opportunity.

4 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: The next
5 witness on our list is Mr. Otis Haigler,
6 Director of Legislative Affairs for the
7 Department of License and Inspection for
8 the City of Philadelphia.

9 Good morning, Mr. Haigler.
10 Will you please state your name for the
11 record and proceed with your testimony.

12 MR. HAIGLER: Good day,
13 Councilman Ramos and members of the
14 Committee. I am Otis Haigler, Jr.,
15 Director of Legislative Affairs for the
16 Department of Licenses and Inspections.
17 Today I'm here to provide testimony on
18 Bill 050748, which, if enacted, will add
19 new requirements to The Philadelphia Code
20 to regulate inspections for the presence
21 of mold in residential occupancies.

22 The Department of Licenses and
23 Inspections, as a public safety
24 department, supports any initiative that
25 will provide safeguards to protect the

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2 health and safety of the citizens who
3 reside in our City. To that end, we have
4 actively participated in meetings chaired
5 by Councilman Ramos over the past two
6 years where the issue of microbial mold
7 contamination as found in residential
8 occupancies was discussed in-depth.

9 Bill 050748 introduced in
10 September of this year contain many
11 suggestions from those meetings for ways
12 to address mold inspections, with an
13 emphasis toward the protection of the
14 consumer who engages this type of service
15 or inspection service.

16 Bill 050748 will require a
17 comprehensive inspection for mold in
18 cases where the buyer of a residential
19 property is offered and has elected to
20 have a home inspection conducted on the
21 sales property and where the results of
22 this inspection indicates that water
23 intrusion has occurred or that the
24 presence of visible mold growth is
25 evident.

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2 A further requirement to have a
3 trained individual in the area of mold
4 inspection to conduct the more detailed
5 inspection for mold will ensure that the
6 buyer is fully aware of the presence of
7 mold and the risks associated with
8 exposure that could cause harm to the
9 buyer or the buyer's family prior to the
10 completion of the real estate
11 transaction.

12 This bill will also provide
13 additional protection to either party
14 involved in the real estate transaction,
15 whether that is the buyer or seller of
16 the property who engages the services of
17 a mold inspector, by requiring the mold
18 inspector to be licensed by the
19 Department of Licenses and Inspections
20 after having met certain qualifications
21 related to education, training and
22 insurance. We believe this will protect
23 the consumer from persons who would
24 misrepresent themselves as qualified to
25 conduct this type of inspection and

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2 provide a remedy if liability issues
3 arise following the inspection.

4 Provisions have also been made
5 in the bill for the Department of Health
6 to promulgate regulations which will set
7 forth specific requirements for how the
8 inspections are conducted.

9 Finally, to address conflicts
10 that might occur within the different
11 inspection disciplines and remedial
12 contractors involved in this process,
13 provisions have been made in the bill
14 which specify that the person performing
15 one function related to the discovery or
16 presence of mold at a location may not
17 perform work in another area or other
18 areas involved with inspection or removal
19 of mold from the location. This will
20 ensure that the consumer receives a fair
21 and honest evaluation of the property
22 without any inducements, either real or
23 implied, that might call into question
24 the integrity of the inspection process.

25 Thank you for the opportunity

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2 to provide the Department's testimony on
3 Bill 050748. I will be happy to answer
4 any questions at this time.

5 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Thank you
6 for your testimony.

7 Any questions from members of
8 the Committee for this witness?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Mr. Haigler,
11 you've been with us from the very
12 beginning in trying to put together a
13 bill that, one, would address the issue
14 of health concerns that we are now aware
15 of in the country concerning mold
16 exposure. You know that as well that we
17 wanted to make sure that consumers knew
18 basic information about the effects of
19 mold and also home buyer protection, the
20 home buyer that has bought a property.

21 In this case, in this bill, it
22 does not stop the sale of the property,
23 but it does let the potential home buyer
24 know that there is a degree of mold in
25 this property.

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2 These are some of the
3 literature by the EPA and these are some
4 places where there's some training that
5 is certified by the state where you can
6 go and get yourself properly trained to
7 qualify as a mold inspector.

8 So you've been a part of this
9 process with us that these were the basic
10 criterias that although we've been
11 working on this for almost two years, we
12 didn't want it to become a very
13 comprehensive piece of legislation,
14 because I thought that there will
15 probably be some other additions in the
16 future that will complement or add to
17 this piece of legislation.

18 Since you got this involved
19 with us, how do you see your Department
20 doing other things along this area of
21 mold remediation in our City?

22 MR. HAIGLER: Well, Councilman,
23 again, we are very, very concerned about
24 issues related to health and safety.
25 That's our mission. Our mission is to

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2 safeguard the public.

3 We would, by all means, avail
4 ourselves to the Health Department or any
5 other department that we could get some
6 additional training. We're not
7 specifically trained in the area of mold.
8 We're not expert in mold training and
9 mold remediation, but what we do is, we
10 go out, we do our inspections, we cite
11 the proper individuals to make sure that
12 they comply with the Code, and we would,
13 I guess, basically just do the best we
14 can as far as making sure that the
15 persons who get their licenses, that
16 they're qualified to do the type of
17 inspections that need to be done to
18 address this serious issue.

19 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Thank you,
20 Mr. Haigler, for your testimony and for
21 your tremendous help in putting together
22 this piece of legislation.

23 MR. HAIGLER: Thank you.

24 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Our next
25 witness is Mr. Roscoe Green, Executive

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2 Director of the Laborers' District
3 Council Education Training/Apprentice
4 Fund.

5 Good morning, Mr. Green. Will
6 you please state your name for the record
7 and proceed with your testimony.

8 MR. GREEN: My name is Roscoe
9 Green. I am Training Director for the
10 Laborers' District Council Education and
11 Training Fund and affiliate of Laborers'
12 ADC Education and Training Fund located
13 in Pomfret, Connecticut.

14 I've been associated with the
15 education and training since 1976. I've
16 been affiliated with the Laborers'
17 District Council Training Fund since
18 1982. We're one of over 75 training
19 programs located throughout the United
20 States and Canada. We do apprenticeship
21 training, journeyman training and
22 specialty training.

23 Our program has been involved
24 with the development of the mold worker
25 training since 2001, and we served as the

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2 host for the pilot program of the first
3 Laborers' ADC mold remediation class.

4 The class that we currently do
5 now is an eight-hour class. It's for
6 trainees that have been certified in
7 asbestos, lead or hazardous waste. And
8 the reason why we do it that way is
9 because previous training with personal
10 protective equipment, respiratory
11 protection and the protocol for doing the
12 work is already done with the previous
13 classes. So our one eight-hour-day class
14 is in addition to previous certification
15 that the students have.

16 In doing the research for mold
17 remediation and mold inspection, one
18 would find over 100,000 sites that
19 specifically talk about mold inspection
20 training. One of the things that can be
21 learned from studying these sites is that
22 there is a tremendous need for minimum
23 and uniform standards, consistent
24 protocol for doing tests, and performing
25 those tests competently.

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2 Given the fact that there are
3 currently no federal or state
4 certifications for mold-related
5 activities or services, it's imperative
6 and very important that cities and
7 municipalities, state governments and
8 eventually federal governments get
9 involved with regulating this potentially
10 very, very hazardous and health-related
11 area and that the regulations cover not
12 only the protection of the consumer, the
13 worker, contractors, cities,
14 municipalities and health departments,
15 but also the general health of the
16 community in terms of how mold can be
17 affecting several different areas of the
18 economy and the health of the particular
19 neighborhoods.

20 The ordinance such as the one
21 being introduced and discussed today must
22 be structured to protect the consumer,
23 the worker, the community and the City
24 government from substandard activities.
25 One of the things that there's always a

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2 concern for again is uniformity, that
3 whatever is eventually developed and put
4 forth in this ordinance, that there be a
5 uniformity that covers all the areas that
6 I just mentioned.

7 I'd like to thank the Council
8 for this opportunity to present the
9 statement, and if there are any
10 questions, I'd like to answer them at
11 this point.

12 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Thank you,
13 Mr. Green, for your testimony.

14 Any questions from Committee
15 members of Mr. Green?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Mr. Green,
18 you have been in the training aspect of
19 remediation in the environmental field
20 for a lot of years. You mentioned, just
21 for clarity, you mentioned that you
22 already have a program that trains
23 workers on remediation of mold?

24 MR. GREEN: That's correct.

25 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: And is that

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2 certified by the state, the federal
3 government? How do you go about your
4 training facility being certified to do
5 that type of training?

6 MR. GREEN: Right. Again, the
7 issue about there not being any state or
8 federal regulations presents this problem
9 in developing any of those programs, and,
10 that is, that due to the fact that there
11 are not any federal, state regulations,
12 you have to take protocol and establish
13 procedures that have been developed in
14 related areas and use those as a
15 benchmark to develop programs in mold.

16 From that, we use our previous
17 experience, which now is probably about
18 30 years of experience with asbestos,
19 lead and hazardous waste, to set those
20 protocols. There is very little
21 difference between procedural things,
22 personal protective equipment and
23 protocol for doing testing, clean air
24 checks and that sort of thing that exist
25 in the mold area that have not previously

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2 been developed in asbestos, lead and
3 hazardous waste.

4 So what we do is, we use that
5 experience and set the highest standard
6 that we can given the information that we
7 have and training and technical things
8 that are currently available and we
9 establish our benchmark for our mold
10 work.

11 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Mr. Green,
12 do you see contractors in this region
13 utilizing what I hear is a common
14 practice in the region using trained
15 workers to do mold remediation?

16 MR. GREEN: No, I don't. What
17 happens, and again the research shows,
18 that you have a wide variety of different
19 things that are being used by contractors
20 to say that their workers can do the work
21 and their inspectors can do the work.
22 Classes for mold inspection, for
23 instance, research shows that they can
24 run from a six-hour online course to a
25 three-day course to a 40-hour course in

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2 different parts of the country.

3 If you were to ask contractors
4 that are doing the work to present
5 credentials and certifications on the
6 people that are doing the work, most of
7 them would be using one of those types of
8 training.

9 An example of, again, the
10 benchmark that we set that other
11 contractors and other organizations may
12 not is the area of hazardous waste. We
13 do an 80-hour hazardous waste course.
14 The first week involves regulations,
15 protocol, that sort of thing. The second
16 week involves actual hands-on simulation
17 of doing hazardous waste work.

18 Most companies only require and
19 train their people in what's a 40-hour or
20 32-hour hazardous waste course. So we
21 look at the way we approach doing
22 hazardous waste as going over and above
23 what the normal training protocol has
24 been so that our workers are better
25 prepared for the issues and the things

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2 that they'll run into out in the field.

3 I would use that same sort of
4 approach in terms of mold remediation or
5 mold inspection, mold testing, that you
6 take and go beyond the call of duty in
7 establishing the highest possible
8 standards for that area.

9 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Do you have
10 a course now available for training in
11 mold inspection?

12 MR. GREEN: Again, we're
13 putting together some items that we think
14 will meet the standards that we normally
15 set for doing that work, and look forward
16 to developing and putting together a
17 pilot program within the next few months.

18 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Will that
19 program be designed also for mold
20 inspectors to do residential? Because in
21 this bill, it is primarily in the area of
22 residential homes. Would the training be
23 also geared because there is a difference
24 between -- I have a little bit of a
25 background in this as well, in the

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2 remediation end, that outside of the
3 commercial, the work that contractors
4 probably -- I assume that those are the
5 ones that will use your facilities or the
6 unions will use your facilities to train
7 people to get this remediation work done.

8 Would it be able to fit a mold
9 inspector that is not an inspector on a
10 big renovation of a downtown building but
11 a person that will go out to Joe Smith's
12 who wants to buy a house and the home
13 inspector has told him, I see seepage of
14 water in your basement, you need to go
15 get, per City ordinance, you need to go
16 get a mold inspector?

17 Will your facility have that
18 type of training to also make it
19 available to this type of mold inspector
20 that is called for in this piece of
21 legislation?

22 MR. GREEN: Right. I think
23 what may eventually have to happen in
24 developing any of these classes, that you
25 have to make distinctions in terms of the

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2 level of competency you're trying to
3 reach. So within putting these courses
4 together, it's certainly possible and
5 probably probable that you would make a
6 differentiation between what the
7 residential mold inspector would have to
8 do and then what levels especially you
9 may need to have when doing commercial
10 properties or any other type of mold
11 inspections.

12 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Thank you,
13 Mr. Green. Thank you for your testimony
14 and all your time.

15 MR. GREEN: Thank you.

16 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Our next
17 witness is Mr. Scott Schneider. He's the
18 Director of Occupational Safety and
19 Health, Laborers' Health and Safety Fund
20 of North America.

21 Thank you, Mr. Schneider, for
22 taking the time from your busy schedule
23 to testify here today in Philadelphia. I
24 believe you came from Washington. Thank
25 you so much for your time and concern

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2 about this important issue.

3 Will you please state your name
4 for the record and proceed with your
5 testimony.

6 MR. SCHNEIDER: My name is
7 Scott Schneider, and I want to thank you
8 for the opportunity to testify on this
9 resolution and ordinance concerning mold.

10 I'm the Director of
11 Occupational Safety and Health for the
12 Laborers' Health and Safety Fund of North
13 America. It's a joint labor-management
14 non-profit affiliated with the Laborers'
15 International Union of North America, or
16 LIUNA.

17 The Laborers' Union represents
18 about 800,000 mostly construction workers
19 in the U.S. and Canada. Our members do a
20 wide range of construction work, from
21 road and building construction to
22 demolition and hazardous waste work.
23 They also do what we call environmental
24 work, including asbestos and lead
25 abatement and mold remediation.

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2 A few years ago, we worked
3 closely with our Training Funds to
4 develop a course to teach workers how to
5 do microbial remediation. That course is
6 being taught at several training centers,
7 including, as you heard, at our Exton
8 Training Center. The course is a 32-hour
9 course for those without asbestos
10 abatement training and includes hands-on
11 training to teach workers how to set up
12 and use containment areas. The Laborers
13 are currently training hundreds of
14 workers in the Gulf on mold remediation
15 to help with the massive clean-up effort
16 underway there.

17 I would like to applaud the
18 efforts of the Council in introducing
19 this resolution and ordinance as an
20 important first step towards protecting
21 consumers and workers from exposure to
22 mold. For those who are particularly
23 susceptible to mold, such as those with
24 asthma, allergies to mold or
25 immunocompromised, exposure can be a

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2 serious health hazard.

3 There are at least 14 states
4 that have introduced some mold-related
5 legislation in the past few years. Most
6 have set up task forces or advisory
7 committees to look into the problem.
8 Others have begun licensing inspectors,
9 contractors and workers.

10 Some states have focused on the
11 problem in schools, while others have
12 turned their attention to homes. Some
13 cities, like New York City, have issued
14 guidelines for mold remediation. EPA has
15 also issued its own guidance for problems
16 in schools. Texas has gone the farthest
17 in new regulations finalized last year
18 that requires licensing of inspectors,
19 contractors and workers.

20 Much of this is in response to
21 problems people have had with new
22 construction, which allowed leakage of
23 water and mold growth, and with
24 contractors coming in and cleaning up a
25 mold problem, only to have them return

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2 later.

3 Unfortunately, at this point,
4 there are more questions than answers.
5 Some of the major issues that have come
6 up include what should the qualifications
7 be for a mold inspector; what liability
8 might an inspector have, for example, if
9 they declare a building mold free but
10 missed some and inhabitants later get
11 sick; and what qualifications will the
12 insurance industry place on inspectors in
13 order to provide them professional
14 liability insurance; how do we make sure
15 that they find hidden mold, which can be
16 inside walls, HVAC systems, on duct
17 lining, behind wallpaper, underneath
18 carpeting, in pipe chases and anywhere
19 else moisture can accumulate; how can we
20 make sure contractors are competent and
21 qualified to clean up mold problems; how
22 can we ensure that workers who are
23 cleaning up mold are properly trained and
24 protected; and how can we ensure that new
25 buildings that are built are properly

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2 designed to keep out moisture and prevent
3 mold growth.

4 Right now there are no
5 definitive answers to these questions.
6 Developing criteria and qualifications
7 for inspectors is an important first
8 step. I encourage you to continue the
9 dialogue and move forward cautiously. I
10 look forward to working with the Council
11 on this important issue, and I would be
12 happy to entertain questions.

13 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Thank you so
14 much, Mr. Schneider.

15 Do the members of this
16 Committee have any questions for our
17 witness?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCILMAN RAMOS:
20 Mr. Schneider, I just want to again go on
21 record, thank you so much for taking time
22 from your schedule in Washington, D.C.
23 You have been involved, by all the
24 information I've gotten and a little bit
25 I've talked to you in person, about

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2 Ms. King from, I believe it's, a related
3 department.

4 MR. SCHNEIDER: Our sister
5 organization in the Midwest.

6 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Yes. She
7 has been with us in this process a number
8 of times, and we have so much taken in
9 her wealth of experience and knowledge of
10 this business of remediation,
11 particularly mold remediation.

12 Can you tell us just a little
13 bit more, if you don't mind, about your
14 background?

15 MR. SCHNEIDER: Sure.

16 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: And I
17 appreciate the questions that you posed
18 to us. You and I talked a little bit and
19 my legislative aide, Mr. Zalenski, and
20 you have talked about some of the
21 recommendations. I think they're very
22 good questions and very good
23 recommendations.

24 If everything goes well here in
25 the legislative process and this bill is

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2 approved by the members of this Council,
3 what I would want to do is form a task
4 force immediately to address these
5 questions and to make this work,
6 particularly for consumers and for people
7 to know, those consumers to know as home
8 buyers, a little bit more about this
9 problem of mold and what this law does to
10 help them gain knowledge and how to
11 access remediation, if that is their
12 choice.

13 So thank you, and I'm asking
14 you to, if you have the time, to join us
15 in this task force, pending the decision
16 of this Council.

17 MR. SCHNEIDER: Sure. I'd be
18 happy to help out.

19 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: But tell us
20 a little bit more about your background
21 in this line of work.

22 MR. SCHNEIDER: Sure. I'm an
23 industrial hygienist by trade, and I got
24 my industrial hygiene degree 25 years
25 ago, and since then, I've been working --

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2 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: What does an
3 industrial hygienist do?

4 MR. SCHNEIDER: An industrial
5 hygienist is somebody who is trained -- I
6 have a Master's in public health
7 basically to go and look at health and
8 safety hazards in the workplace and to
9 identify controls and remediation,
10 corrective measures to protect the health
11 of workers from health hazards and safety
12 hazards on the job.

13 And I spent the last 25 years
14 in Washington working for a variety of
15 labor unions looking at doing health and
16 safety, developing training materials,
17 helping our contractors improve safety on
18 their job sites. And I did as part of my
19 work back in the early '80s, mid '80s
20 testified before OSHA and before EPA on
21 their asbestos regulations and helped
22 them formulate their training
23 requirements that they have now in place
24 nationwide for training for asbestos
25 inspectors, asbestos workers, asbestos

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2 contractors and asbestos supervisors.

3 And I've also done work on lead exposure
4 issues with a variety of unions.

5 I've been with the Laborers
6 seven years, and the Laborers Union is
7 one of the few that has a national joint
8 Health and Safety Fund, joint
9 Labor-Management Fund, and we're here
10 really basically to help our employers
11 and help our members provide safe
12 workplaces.

13 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Thank you,
14 Mr. Schneider.

15 Any questions from members of
16 the Committee?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Seeing none,
19 thank you again for your testimony.

20 MR. SCHNEIDER: Thank you.

21 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Is there
22 anyone else who wishes to testify
23 regarding this bill or resolution, please
24 come forward to the witness table.

25 (No response.)

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2 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Seeing none,
3 this will conclude our public hearing,
4 and we will now move to the public
5 meeting.

6 We are in the public meeting,
7 and the Chair recognizes Councilman
8 Wilson Goode for a motion on Bill 050748.

9 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chair. I move that Bill 050748 be
11 reported out of Committee with a
12 favorable recommendation and that the
13 rules of Council be suspended so as to
14 permit first reading at our next Council
15 session.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: It's been
18 properly seconded.

19 All those in favor signify by
20 saying aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: The ayes
23 have it.

24 It has been moved and properly
25 seconded that Bill No. 050748 be reported

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2 out of Committee with a favorable
3 recommendation and further move that the
4 rules of Council be suspended to permit
5 first reading of this bill at our next
6 Council meeting.

7 In regards to Resolution 050722
8 related to this bill, this Committee will
9 stand in recess to the call of the Chair.
10 This concludes our hearing.

11 Thank you very much for your
12 participation.

13 (Committee on Labor and Civil
14 Service adjourned at 11:05 a.m.)

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