



Public Notice

August 22, 2007

This notice is to inform you of the status of the City-owned area behind the houses on Ridgeway and Pandora in the Homewood Heights Neighborhood. Recently City of Austin and Easter Seals crews removed bulky trash and debris from this area. During this cleanup, City staff found broken glass, pieces of metal and other material which may be signs of an old dumping site. When the City finds an old dump site, an assessment is done to determine if there are any hazards present that may be of concern.

The City collected three surface soil samples and one water sample to find out what contaminants might be in this area. The sample results found metals and pesticides. To ensure the safety to the citizens, the City suggested that more sampling of the site be done.

Attached are the results of the samples collected by the City. Two of the soil samples indicate high levels of lead above state protective levels. According to local health officials, exposure to lead at these levels may pose a risk to children who accidentally or intentionally ingest soil from this area. For this reason, public access was restricted to limit exposure to soil and other physical hazards in this area. In addition, be aware the possibility exists that there could be lead contamination from this or other sources on adjacent private property. Please see the attached *Austin Guide to Lead* brochure for information on how to protect you and your family from lead exposure. The metals barium and selenium and the pesticide DDT were also detected in the water sample but are below their corresponding state protective levels, and are not expected to pose a risk to residents.

Further evaluation and land surveying is being done to determine the extent and source of contamination on City property, and will help us find the best clean up process so the property will be available for future public use and enjoyment. Public access to this area will continue to be prohibited until this assessment is completed. The City of Austin is not planning on sampling private property at this time.

For additional information, please call Oscar Garza, East Austin Environmental Initiative Coordinator, through the Pollution Hotline at 512-974-2550. For health related questions, please contact Janet Pichette with Austin/Travis County Health & Human Services at 972-5486.



**Watershed Protection
Development Review**