



Racial Equity Impact Analysis (REIA)

SUBJECT:

Mold Ordinance

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

DOES THIS IMPACT ONE OF THE CITY'S GOAL AREAS?

Policy Goals

- HOUSING
- ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
- BUILT ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORTATION
- PUBLIC HEALTH

Operational Goals

- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

DESCRIBE THE IMPACT ON SELECTED GOAL AREAS.

This ordinance seeks to implement mold remediations by updating ordinances to be more effective in reducing mold hazards and providing more information to property owners and renters. Exposure to mold can cause a range of health problems, including respiratory issues, allergies, headaches, and even neurological problems. Infants, young children, elderly people, and those with weakened immune systems are particularly susceptible to mold-related health problems. Mold growth can create unsafe living and working conditions, particularly if left untreated for a prolonged period. In addition, mold can weaken the structural integrity of buildings, creating hazards for occupants. A mold ordinance will help ensure that properties are maintained in a safe and healthy condition, protecting the health and well-being of occupants and preventing costly property damage. This ordinance aligns with the Renter First policy.

WHO PARTICIPATED IN COMPLETING THIS ANALYSIS?

Lisa Smestad and Bethany Turnwall

SECTION 2: DATA

LIST THE SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIES THAT WILL BE IMPACTED AND THE RACIAL DEMOGRAPHICS OF CONSTITUENTS IN THOSE AREAS:

Being able to more directly address mold issues will positively impact communities with historically higher rates of asthma, low-income residents, BIPOC, children, and those residing in rental housing with many violations. Opportunity Zones, Green Zones and Promise Zones are located in these communities.

WHAT DOES AVAILABLE DATA TELL YOU ABOUT HOW CONSTITUENTS FROM BIPOC COMMUNITIES CURRENTLY RELATE TO THE DESIRED OUTCOME COMPARED TO WHITE CONSTITUENTS?

In order to understand current data, we reviewed 2017-2023 violation data for water-damaged surfaces and 311 calls where the word mold, mildew or water-damaged surface was recorded. Although these issues can be seen everywhere in the City, wards with the highest number of violations (4, 5, 9 and 10) also have the highest environmental justice concerns in the City as well as the highest percentages of BIPOC and renters.

WHAT DATA IS UNAVAILABLE OR MISSING? HOW CAN YOU OBTAIN ADDITIONAL DATA?

Tracking mold-related violations will become easier once an ordinance is passed because mold violations will be searchable in the Inspections database. Currently, water-damaged surfaces is used as a proxy for inspections response.

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

USING THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (IAP2) [PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SPECTRUM](#), WHICH PARTICIPATION STRATEGY(S) WAS USED WHEN ENGAGING THOSE WHO WOULD BE MOST IMPACTED?

- INFORM
- CONSULT

DESCRIBE THE ENGAGEMENT AND WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED?

The ordinance was presented for comment at the March Housing Advisory Committee.

SECTION 4: ANALYSIS

HOW DOES THE OUTCOME FOR THIS ORDINANCE, AMENDMENT, OR POLICY HELP THE CITY ACHIEVE RACIAL EQUITY?

This ordinance will be part of the Housing Maintenance Code which targets preventing mold within homes through a combination of inspection changes, enforcement, education and outreach to Minneapolis property owners and constituents. Mold can increase asthma symptoms ranging from missing school and work, increased medication usage (rescue inhalers), and additional doctor visits, urgent care, emergency room or hospitalizations. Asthma disproportionately occurs among the BIPOC community in Minneapolis. This ordinance update would provide renters (proportionally higher in the BIPOC community) and the City with a needed tool to enforce maintenance standards for conditions that lead to mold growth in rental housing. By reducing the number of adults and children experiencing mold-related health issues in their homes, the City will reduce this preventable racial equity disparity and environmental justice issue in our community.

SECTION 5: EVALUATION

HOW WILL IMPACTS BE MEASURED? WHAT ARE THE SUCCESS INDICATORS AND PROCESS BENCHMARKS?

Success and impacts will be measured by the number of residential units with corrected violations and the number of 311 calls requesting mold-related inspections.

HOW WILL THOSE WHO ARE IMPACTED BE INFORMED OF PROGRESS OVER TIME?

Long-term impact to the City would include the steady reduction of the number of adults and children diagnosed with asthma and perpetual asthma-related issues. Information on violations corrected could be part of the results reports to the City Council on an annual basis and be reported to the Public Health Advisory Committee and the Housing Advisory Committee as requested.