July 28, 2020

**CERTIFIED MAIL**

Dr. Iline P. Tracey, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent

City of New Haven

Public Schools

54 Meadow Street, 5th Floor

New Haven, CT 06519

**RE: Letter of Significant Findings, Inspection #1477169**

Dear Dr. Tracey:

An inspection was conducted at Metropolitan Business Academy Interdistrict Magnet High School (MBA) on March 10, 2020 to investigate a complaint filed with our office. The complaint alleged concerns about the general ventilation in the science laboratories (Rooms 208 and 308), fume hoods not functioning properly in both rooms, and a broken handle on an eyewash in Room 208.

During a walkthrough of the affected classrooms and adjoining prep rooms (Rooms 208/214B and 308/314B), the Compliance Safety and Health Officer (CSHO) observed numerous hazardous chemicals located in these rooms. Among them were hazardous chemicals which are carcinogens and/or reproductive hazards. These chemicals include, but may not be limited to, formaldehyde/formalin, lead nitrate solution, and sodium chromate solution. When employees are exposed to these substances in laboratory settings, the employer must comply with the requirements set forth in 1910.1450, *Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories*, as well as the applicable requirements set forth in the health-based standard specific to each of the substances including 1910.1025, *Lead*; 1910.1026, *Chromium (VI)*; and 1910.1048, *Formaldehyde*.

At this time, there will be no violations of these specific health-based standards. However, if your District determines that the use of these products is necessary and they will be used at your workplace, then you must comply with the applicable requirements set forth in 1910.1450, 1910.1025, 1910.1026, and 1910.1048 particularly the requirement for an initial monitoring of these substances. These substances may pose a significant health hazard to those exposed; therefore, the State of Connecticut, Department of Labor, Division of Occupational Safety and Health (CONN-OSHA), instead, strongly advises your district to either eliminate the use of these products or substitute them with products that are less hazardous.

During the inspection, the CSHO also identified numerous hazards related to the general unsafe handling, use and storage of a variety of hazardous chemicals in MBA’s science laboratories. Violations have been proposed for these hazards and are listed in the "Citation and Notification of Penalty" document that you will receive under separate cover.

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Dr. Iline P. Tracey, Superintendent

Based on information obtained through management interviews, employee interviews, a walkthrough of affected areas, and a review of records, it became apparent that the presence of these hazards is likely symptomatic of an ineffectively administered, implemented, and enforced chemical hygiene plan. As such, the most effective method of eliminating these types of hazards in the future is by developing an effective Chemical Hygiene Plan which is administered by personnel capable of adequately implementing the established policies and procedures. Furthermore, efforts must be put forth by the district to fully support the roles and responsibilities of the Chemical Hygiene Officer so that person may effectively carry out the provisions of the Chemical Hygiene Plan, including having the ability to swiftly correct deficiencies when they are identified.

Please respond to this office no later than October 5, 2020 with actions taken regarding the hazardous chemicals, provisions regarding the chemical hygiene plan and Chemical Hygiene Officer.

As always, our concerns are for the safety and health of all employees. If this office can be of further assistance, please call (860) 263-6900.

Sincerely,

Kenneth C. Tucker, III

CONN-OSHA Director

kct/cfj

cc: Michael Pinto, Chief Operating Officer

Michael Crocco, Principal

Evonne Duzant, Workers’ Compensation Coordinator