



GLENN A. CUNHA
INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Inspector General

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October 2, 2012

Gary Wallace, Executive Director
Lowell Housing Authority
350 Moody Street
Lowell, MA 01854

Re: **Allegations of Illegal Removal of Asbestos and Lead at the Lowell Housing Authority - North Common Village**

Dear Mr. Wallace:

In February 2012, the Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General (MA OIG) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) conducted an investigation into allegations that asbestos and lead paint had been abated and removed at the North Common Village (NCV) without the proper permits and then disposed of illegally.

In response to these allegations, the MA OIG and the FBI conducted several interviews, reviewed numerous documents, and retained an independent laboratory to test material that allegedly came from NCV and that allegedly contained asbestos. As a result of the investigation, it was determined that the allegations were unfounded.

The evidence demonstrates that the Lowell Housing Authority (LHA) handled the removal and disposal of both the exposed asbestos and the lead before the NCV renovations began in 2008. The LHA provided this office with documentation demonstrating that the LHA entered into an asbestos removal contract with Northern Asbestos Abatement Company (NAACO) on September 14, 1988. The NAACO removed and properly disposed of the NCV asbestos.

Similarly, the investigation also found no evidence that the LHA concealed the removal of lead from any of the NCV buildings. The investigation found that lead was removed and disposed of properly in late 1999 and 2000 in all 536 NCV units. Moreover, letters of full de-leading compliance were sent to the LHA by ATC Associates, Inc. in the summer of 2000.

Mr. Gary Wallace

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Based on this investigation, the MA OIG concludes that the allegations of illegal removal and disposal of asbestos and lead at the NCV complex have no evidentiary basis. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Glenn A. Cunha".

Glenn A. Cunha
Inspector General

cc: Bernard Lynch, City Manager
Eugene M. Novak, Jr., State Building Inspector