

LAW OFFICE OF SARAH GIBSON

73 Tremont Street ♦ Cambridge, MA 02139-1345 ♦ Phone: (617) 492-1390 ♦ Fax: (617) 547-6792

lawoffice@sgibsonlaw.com

MEMORANDUM

To: Cheryl Bomal, GLTO

From: Sarah Gibson

Cc: Meg Warner, MTA

Re: GLRTHS – health & safety concerns

Date: March 20, 2015

What follows is a brief summary of my work to date with the GLTO and its health & safety committee; my conclusions from the documents that I have reviewed, and my recommendations for further action by the health & safety committee. Please feel free to share this memo with GLTO members.

I have reviewed documents concerning conditions in GLRTHS during the construction project. Those documents included building inspection reports from the Mass. Dept. of Public Health (DPH); a report from the Mass. Dept. of Labor Standards (DLS) concerning compliance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA); air clearance test reports required by AHERA; air quality test results; containment protocols for asbestos-related work and for the construction project generally; and e-mail correspondence concerning specific rooms in the building in which there were concerns about construction-related debris or construction activities. I have also reviewed the results of the Indoor Air Quality Questionnaire distributed to unit members in December, 2014.

My impression is that the Superintendent has been responsive to the GLTO's requests for information, and has provided additional building-related information to you as he has received it. The report from DLS did not note violations of AHERA related to construction activities at the school, but did note two records that the district needed to incorporate into its asbestos management plan. The reports from DPH noted areas in which construction had an impact on building ventilation, and made recommendations concerning other general indoor environmental issues. Neither the DLS nor the DPH reports, nor other documents that I reviewed indicated that there were conditions in the building that posed an immediate, general health hazard for building occupants. Having reviewed this information, my conclusion is that the principal issues that need to be addressed at this time are as follows:

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1. Issues identified in the Indoor Air Quality Questionnaire:
 - a. Building issues
 - 1) Varying temperatures
 - 2) Dry air
 - 3) Draft
 - 4) Stuffy air
 - 5) Dust/dirt
 - 6) Odors
 - b. Individual health issues
 - 1) Dry throat
 - 2) Itching scalp / ears
 - 3) Cough
 - 4) Itching / red / dry hands
 - 5) Irritated / runny / stuffy nose
2. Concerns related to construction project (from DPH reports, containment protocols, and individuals' concerns)
 - a. Adequacy of notification in advance re: construction activities and potential impact on education activity in building
 - b. Sufficiency of isolation of construction activities from occupied areas
 - c. Sufficiency of clean-up after construction activities in occupied areas

In addition to the general issues described above, individual employees have made the health & safety committee and/or the GLTO aware of health issues that they attribute to building conditions. It is very important for those employees to discuss their concerns with their health care providers, and request written opinions from their providers as to whether their symptoms are more likely than not caused or aggravated by conditions in the building. Health care providers may need to review the documents concerning conditions in the building in order to assess whether symptoms are building-related. With that in mind, I have provided a complete set of the documents that I have reviewed to the GLTO so that the documents may be made available to any building occupants who want to provide that information to their doctors.

I have discussed the documents, and reviewed both the building-related issues and health-related issues with the health & safety committee at its meeting in February, 2015, and recommended at that time that the committee focus on the issues outlined above.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the work I have done, or my recommendations.