



Centers for Disease Control
And Prevention
National Institute for Occupational
Safety and Health
1090 Tusculum Avenue
Cincinnati OH 45226-1998

November 21, 2017
HHE 2018-0022

Sergeant Daniel Hils
President, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 69
1900 Central Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

Dear Sergeant Hils:

Thank you for voicing your thoughts about the health hazard evaluation (HHE) in your November 20, 2017, telephone call. In response, I want to further describe our approach to this HHE.

Our scientific approach to investigating cancer cluster concerns includes an evaluation of current workplace conditions and a summary of health concerns from the recent past. We evaluated the current workplace conditions during our walk-through survey on November 15, 2017, and will follow up with additional questions about the building to the facilities manager.

To understand recent health concerns, in our letter dated November 20, 2017, we requested information on “each current or past District 5 employee diagnosed with cancer since January 1, 2014.” This sentence was intended to request information on all current or past District 5 employees who had been identified with cancer since 2014. It was not intended to restrict information to only employees with new diagnoses of cancer as of 2014. We apologize for the confusion. As we stated at our opening meeting at District 5 headquarters on November 15, 2017, if union, management, or employee representatives have other records concerning District 5 employees with cancer, we would be happy to review those records as well.

We are requesting this information as the first step of an evaluation of a possible cancer cluster. We are following established guidelines for investigating cancer cluster concerns published in a document from the Centers for Disease and Control (CDC) and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) in 2013 (<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr6208.pdf>). We have adopted these standard principles of cancer cluster evaluations to the occupational setting. For example, the information we requested is part of the “assess initial cases” step in a scientific paper entitled “Investigating clusters in the workplace and beyond” by Brown (1999).¹ These principles, framed in four questions, were described during our November 15, 2017, meeting. Application of this approach can be seen on a NIOSH webpage about cancer clusters (<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/cancer/clusters.html>).

¹ Brown AM [1999]. Investigating clusters in the workplace and beyond. *Occup Med* 49(7): 443–447.

Page 2 – Sergeant Daniel Hils

Please let me know if you have any additional questions about this HHE. I can be reached at (513) 841-4289 or yjx9@cdc.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Sophia Chiu, MD, MPH
Medical Officer
Hazard Evaluations and Technical
Assistance Branch
Division of Surveillance, Hazard
Evaluations and Field Studies

cc:

Ms. Julie Reese, Senior Environmental Safety Specialist, Employee Safety, City of Cincinnati
Assistant Chief Terri Theetge, Cincinnati Police Department
Captain Bridget Bardua, District 5 Commander, Cincinnati Police Department
Dr. Marilyn Crumpton, Interim Health Commissioner, City of Cincinnati
Ms. Deborah Allison, Risk Manager, City of Cincinnati
Mr. Larry Falkin, Director, Office of Environment and Sustainability, City of Cincinnati
Ms. Jamie Accurso, Facilities Manager, Facility Management, City of Cincinnati