BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT - PERSONNEL - SYDENHAM HOSPITAL

On June 8, Dr. Huntington Williams, Commissioner of Health, wrote to the Board as follows:

"I am writing to request your permission to employ a relief chauffeur at Sydenham Hospital for the seven weeks period from July 12 to August 29, inclusive.

"This request is made in order to grant vacation with pay to the three chauffeurs now on duty at the hospital. One of them is entitled, according to City regulations, to three weeks with pay, and the other two to two weeks each.

"The regularly employed chauffeurs at Sydenham are on an eight-hour shift and it is not possible for us to meet the needs of the service during their vacation periods without additional help.

"The amount needed to cover the cost of this request may be taken from unexpended Sydenham Hospital salary funds."

ON MOTION duly made and seconded, the Board approved the request.

BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT - PERSONNEL

On June 9, Dr. Huntington Williams, Commissioner of Health, wrote to the Board as follows:

"In conference with Mayor D'Alesandro, Dr. Wilmer H. Schulze, Director of our Sanitary Section, and I presented the emergency situation now facing the Division of Plumbing in the Sanitary Section.

"A year ago in preparing the Departmental Estimates for 1948 the City Health Department was very conservative in facing what were then actual needs for more staff in the plumbing inspectors and related clerical staff. We are now faced with an extremely serious situation comparable in most respects to the difficulties that the Buildings Engineer's office recently went through which resulted in Grand Jury proceedings because the office, as I understand it, was not able to keep abreast of the work demanded of it.

"It is well known that our present difficulty is due to the enormous expansion of dwelling unit construction in Baltimore. Building permits for new dwellings have risen from 719 in 1946 to 5,505 in 1947

and the peak has not been reached. Secondly, existing dwellings are being altered to provide additional dwelling units in the current housing shortage, there is a very great expansion of new construction for industrial, commercial and utility concerns, adding to existing buildings, such as the Telephone Company, Crown Cork and Seal, etc.

"Our plumbing inspection work has grown sharply because it is now possible to replace or alter existing plumbing installations after the war years when materials were not available. On top of this, the housing law enforcement program of the City Health and Police Department have increased plumbing permits issued by the Health Department from about 6,000 in 1943 to more than 16,000 in 1947 and the trend is mounting still. These facts are set forth in the attached memorandum of June 8 submitted to me by Dr. Schulze.

"Our present staff of plumbing inspectors, which numbers only seven, is suffering because two of the men are sick and one has been off duty for a considerable period of time and I believe if relief is not promptly provided, we will lose some of the remaining loyal staff we have had.

"To meet this need which will be continuing in the opinion of the Chief Plumbing Inspector whose total request is not being complied with by my writing this letter, I am writing to ask approval of the Board of Estimates to create at this time four new Senior Inspectors of Plumbing at entering salaries of $2,640 per year, which includes the cost of living adjustment; and one Senior Clerk, at $1,910 per year, which includes the cost of living adjustment.

"When last totaled toward the end of April this year we had 9,150 plumbing permits pending completion by field inspections and demands for these are coming in faster than we can handle them so that it is impossible without this added assistance to get our head above water, let alone keep it there.

"For the remaining period of the calendar year 1948 there is ample money in the unexpended Health Department salary account to permit the creation of these new positions at this time, without any additional appropriation to