

02-24-09

Testimony re: Bedbugs in New York City's Hell Kitchen and beyond...

I live in Hell's Kitchen and that is an understatement. Right smack in the middle of the center of the universe, New York City. And there are far too many of the millions who live here, that remain completely oblivious, uninformed and unprepared for this dreadful epidemic. No, it is not life threatening like AIDS, but it is life altering, disrupting and often wreaks complete havoc on lives that are not prepared for the untenable situation being a victim inflicts upon them. Once it happens, no one knows what to do, where to go, how to begin the process of dealing. Some have had nervous breakdowns, others are on the verge.

It is obvious and somewhat understandable that New York City would not want to expose this information as it might undermine an already ravaged economy that is partially dependant on tourism. But this is highly unconscionable and I am "mad as hell" in hell's kitchen. I cannot stand by idly. My life is completely unraveled as are so many due to a bug that is not bigger in size than a seed but is enormous in it's scope to nearly destroy so many lives.

I am appealing to you to act fast. We need this bill and we need to foster more understanding and public awareness. If you have not been personally struck, your chances are high that you could be at anytime as there is no prevention as of yet. So please move forward on education and information and to do everything in your power to get this under control before the whole city has to be quarantined!

Thank you,
Enid Farber
665 9th Ave. # 2E
New York, NY 10036
enidfarbernyc@aol.com

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND
DEVELOPMENT BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL'S HEALTH,
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEES – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH, 2009 – 1PM

GOOD AFTERNOON CHAIRS RIVERA, COMRIE AND JACKSON AND
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND
SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT. I AM BARBARA FLYNN,
CHIEF OF STAFF OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AT THE DEPARTMENT
OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (HPD). I AM HERE
TODAY, ALONG WITH MY COLLEAGUES TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED
LEGISLATION AND HPD'S PROTOCOL FOR RESPONDING THE BEDBUG
COMPLAINTS.

AS YOU ARE AWARE, HPD RESPONDS TO COMPLAINTS OF THE HOUSING
MAINTENANCE CODE THAT ARE CALLED INTO 311. WHEN A TENANT
CALLS 311 WITH A COMPLAINT OF BEDBUGS, HPD MAY RESPOND BY
SENDING A CODE INSPECTOR TO VERIFY THE CONDITION. IF A VIOLATION
IS WRITTEN FOR BEDBUGS, A NOTICE OF VIOLATION IS ISSUED TO THE
OWNER. IN FISCAL YEAR 2008, WE RECEIVED 9,213 COMPLAINTS AND
ISSUED 2,871 VIOLATIONS. THUS FAR IN FISCAL YEAR 2009, WE HAVE
RECEIVED 6,703 COMPLAINTS AND ISSUED 2,313 VIOLATIONS. BY
COMPARISON, IN FISCAL YEAR 2004 WE ONLY RECEIVED 537 COMPLAINTS
AND ISSUED FEWER THAN 100 VIOLATIONS.

AFTER MEETING WITH COUNCILMEMBER BREWER IN FALL 2007 THIS PAST FALL (2007), THE ADMINISTRATION AGREED TO ROLL OUT A BEDBUG CAMPAIGN IN THE THREE NEIGHBORHOODS WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS – UPPER MANHATTAN, BUSHWICK AND ASTORIA. THE SEMINARS WERE SO SUCCESSFUL THAT WE WERE CONTACTED BY OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS AND COMMUNITY BOARDS PROMPTING US LAST YEAR TO CONDUCT 10 ADDITIONAL SEMINARS, IN ADDITION TO OUR HOUSING EDUCATION CLASSES. IN TOTAL, WE TAUGHT APPROXIMATELY 4,000 STUDENTS. THE BRIEFINGS WERE WELL ATTENDED BY BOTH TENANTS AND LANDLORDS AND EVEN SOME EXTERMINATORS LOOKING FOR BUSINESS. THE SEMINARS TOUCHED ON HOW TO IDENTIFY BEDBUGS; CONDITIONS THAT ALLOW BEDBUGS TO THRIVE AND LANDLORDS RESPONSIBILITY IN ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM.

SINCE THE BEDBUG SEMINARS WERE SO SUCCESSFUL WE ARE INTRODUCING AN ON-LINE COURSE THAT INCLUDES THE ELEMENTS OF THE SEMINARS THAT WE HELD LAST YEAR. AFTER MARCH 2ND, 2009, JUST LOG ONTO WWW.NYC.GOV/HPD AND YOU WILL BE DIRECTED TO OUR HOUSING EDUCATION COURSES WHERE YOU CAN ACCESS THE COURSE. A NUMBER OF OUR OTHER INSTRUCTOR- LED HOUSING EDUCATION COURSES ALSO TOUCH ON THE SUBJECT OF BEDBUGS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO EVEN AFTER THE ON-LINE COURSE IS UP AND RUNNING.

ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF AGO, THE COUNCIL AND THE DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION (DSNY) COLLABORATED ON LEGISLATION THAT ALLOWS A SANITATION POLICE OFFICER TO FINE ANYONE CAUGHT REMOVING A MATTRESS FROM THE CURB. LAST YEAR DSNY APPREHENDED 29 INDIVIDUALS AND ISSUED THEM \$100 SUMMONSES.

WHILE HPD HAS NO COMMENT ON THE OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE THREE BILLS BEFORE US, WE AGREE WITH THE DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND SANITATION, THAT THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUES THAT THESE BILLS ARE TRYING TO ADDRESS IS TO CREATE A TASK FORCE THAT WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON SOLID RESEARCH TO THE MAYOR AND THE COUNCIL ON CONTROLLING THE SPREAD OF BEDBUGS.

THANK YOU.



Testimony

Of

Edgar Butts, PhD, MBA
Assistant Commissioner, Veterinary and Pest Control Services
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Before the

**New York City Council Committee on Health, Committee on Consumer Affairs and
Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management**

Regarding

**Intro No 57: To Prohibit the Sale of Recondition Mattress and Creation of Bed Bug Task
Force**

Intro No 872: Disposal of Mattress and Furniture

Intro No 873-A: To Establish a Bed Bug Technique Training Program

February 24, 2009

City Hall,
New York, NY

Good afternoon, Chairpersons Rivera, Comrie and Jackson and Members of the City Council Committees on Health, Consumer Affairs, and Sanitation and Solid Waste Management. My name is Dr. Edgar Butts and I am Assistant Commissioner for Veterinary and Pest Control Services at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH). With me today is Dr. Robert Corrigan, an urban entomologist with our Department. Also with me today are Barbara Flynn from the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, Andrew Eiler from the Department of Consumer Affairs, and Chief Peter McKeon from the Department of Sanitation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding Intros 57, 872 and 873A.

Bed bugs are small insects that feed on human blood and are usually active at night when people are sleeping. Adult bed bugs have flat, rusty-red-colored oval bodies about the size of an apple seed. Bed bugs often hide in cracks in furniture, floors, or walls and can live for several months without food or water. In most cases, people carry bed bugs into their homes unknowingly in infested luggage, furniture, bedding or clothing. Bed bugs may also travel between apartments through small cracks in walls and floors. Physical impact to those living with bed bugs may start with initially painless bites which later turn into large itchy skin welts. These bites are a great nuisance and can have a negative impact on quality of life and the ability to carry on the activities of daily life, however, bed bugs are not known to carry disease.

Bed bugs have resurfaced in New York City in recent years. In fact, New York City is not alone. Urban centers throughout the United States, Canada and parts of Europe are experiencing resurgence in bed bugs, while other parts of the world have steadily endured bed bugs for many decades. In response to this resurgence, the city has instituted a multi-pronged approach to address the bed bug issue: 1) prevention through public education; 2) creation of guidelines and protocols for residents, health care providers, businesses and pest management professionals; and 3) a systematic responses to bed bug complaints, which my colleague Barbara Flynn will describe in her testimony.

As part of this city-wide effort, the Health Department has produced and circulated fact sheets on identifying and responding to bed bugs. Our "Stop Bed Bugs Safely" fact sheet is available via 311, on our website in Spanish and English and, to date more than 90,000 copies have been mailed. The fact sheet provides basic bed bug information as well as ways to get rid of bed bugs if the home is infested. Another fact sheet, "Stop Bed Bugs in Hotels Safely" geared towards the hotel industry is also available on our website. It provides simple instructions for hotels to address bed bug infestation as soon as they occur. Our website also includes a fact sheet for tenants and landlords on how to choose a pest management professional to manage bed bugs. With more than 1,000 pest control companies and thousands of licensed pest control professionals, choosing the right professional to do the job is a challenge. This fact sheet provides a list of questions for residents to ask the pest control companies and professionals before hiring them. Via the Health Alert Network, the Department has also issued clinical guidelines to health care providers on diagnosing bed bug bites and advising patients on safe bed bug control.

The Health Department is currently producing a more detailed guide to bed bug control modeled after successful guides on the prevention of rats, and the safe control of mice and cockroaches in homes. We expect to complete the guide by June and will initially print copies in English and make Spanish and Chinese language versions available on the web. We will be improving our website on bed bugs by providing additional resources, such as a guide that will also give advice

about what people can do to help control an infestation while awaiting a professional, or on tips to keep costs of extermination down.

The City has also implemented protocols to control bed bugs infestations in city housing. The New York City Housing Authority has trained all of its pest management professionals regarding bed bug control, and follows a protocol that involves working with tenants to prepare their apartments for their visit, applying pesticides on at least two visits where needed, cleaning and vacuuming baseboards and other surfaces, and educating tenants on appropriate replacement or isolation of infested furniture and bedding.

Similarly, the Department of Homeless Services has implemented a protocol to help prevent the spread of bed bugs in its shelters and homes. Shelter operators and their maintenance staff have been trained on the appropriate response to bed bugs, and reports of bed bugs may result in isolation of clothing and its separate laundering, thorough inspections, client notification and education, and repeated visits by pest management professionals. Last year the Health Department, Homeless Services and Cornell University's Cooperative Extension Program collaborated on the creation of bed bug guidelines for congregate living environments that has been widely circulated among the shelters. These guidelines are available online from the Cornell University's Cooperative Extension Program website.

While complaints regarding bed bugs to the Department of Housing Preservation and Development have increased significantly in recent years, there are currently inadequate data to understand the full extent of the problem in New York City, and the causes of the resurgence in bed bugs are not fully understood. Many experts believe that a variety of factors are involved, including more frequent travel, use of pesticides with less residual efficacy and perhaps some natural variation in the population of bed bugs. Clearly, we have much to learn about bed bugs and the impact on health and well being of New Yorkers.

To this end, the Administration agrees with the Council that there is a need to create a task force to examine the bed bug problem further and develop appropriate strategies to address it. Such a task force could bring together experts in the field to systematically evaluate, study, identify and recommend ways to control and eradicate the bed bug population in New York City. We believe this is a necessary first step and would support legislation creating such a task force. While it is possible that some or even all of the strategies proposed in Intros 57, 872 and 873A may ultimately be recommended by the task force, we reserve comment on these bills until the task force is established and able to more formally evaluate and recommend appropriate steps to eliminate bed bugs in New York City.

Before concluding my testimony, let me acknowledge Council Member Brewer's tireless advocacy on behalf of this issue—many of the initiatives currently underway are a testament to her perseverance in pursuing a solution to this problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

FOR THE RECORD

Siman, Adira

From: Susana Gilboe [toast@nyc.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 10:17 PM
To: Siman, Adira
Cc: renee@newyorkvsbedbugs.org
Subject: bed bug bills

Dear Adira Siman:

I am writing in support of Intro 873. My building at 273 E. 10th St, NYC 10009 currently has at least four units that are infested with bed bugs, as well, we believe, as the basement. Our landlord, Sassouni Management has been completely unsupportive in our efforts to have the problem resolved. His office manager has been repeatedly misinforming any tenant who calls to make a complaint and has claimed alternately that: bed bugs do not spread from apartment to apartment; that they can only travel up and down, not side to side; that "no one else has complained"; that tenants are being "hysterical"; and that one-third of Sassouni's buildings have bed bugs.

They have sent an exterminator who clearly has no experience with or knowledge of bed bugs. In complete contradiction to industry standard, and commonly accepted knowledge re: bed bugs, he: 1) minimally inspects and treats only the bed itself, despite tenant's evidence that the bugs are spread throughout the unit, 2) uses off-label foggers/bombs as his first treatment, 3) is completely ignorant of integrated pest management protocol, i.e. advises no pre-treatment preparation and claims that mattress encasements and caulking of crevices has no benefit, and 4) claims that everyone reacts to bites, so that not having bites is proof that there are no bed bugs.

The result of all this is that the infestation is spreading rapidly throughout the building. Those apartments that have been treated, either by the landlord's exterminator, or by the tenant's own privately hired PCOs (at great cost) have not had the bugs eradicated, and in fact, they have actually spread further within the apartments. We are currently trying to form a tenant's association in order to force our landlord to deal with the situation effectively.

Intro 873 is desperately needed in this city - as long as landlords are allowed to remain uneducated and/or unresponsive about the problem, and as long as they are able to send in unqualified pest control operators to perform inadequate inspections, and ineffective and inappropriate (and possibly even hazardous) treatments, bed bugs will never be eradicated.

Yours Sincerely,

Susana Gilboe
273 E. 10th St #12
New York, NY 10009

FOR THE RECORD

Siman, Adira

From: Jeffrey Brown [jbrown@nacontech.com]
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 3:25 PM
To: Siman, Adira
Cc: 'Renee Corea'; dmmandjea@aol.com; jbrown@nacontech.com; 'mike walker - Simple Blue Box'
Subject: [From Vwall: Suspected SPAM]: Bed Bugs

Ms. Siman, my name is Jeffrey Brown and I am a medical entomologist who has been in this business for many years. I was an Air Force entomologist and then in the industry for over 20 years in different capacities. We are supporters for the public health and pest control industry and have been monitoring the spread of bed bugs for some time now. I am sure you are cognizant of the problems of bed bugs and how difficult it is to not just eradicate them but prevent them from re-infesting a premise. I have been at many seminars and have been updated on the literature and everything we see is that the proliferation of bed bugs is only getting wider spread and more of a problem to solve. We are in the initial stages of establishing the Academy of Applied Entomological Science to not just monitor the spread of bed bugs, but to evaluate any control techniques to eradicate and prevent them and then take the next step to certify what our team of experts and professional scientist believe are the best and most effective treatments for bed bugs. Our mission is to be the premier educational information source for industry, governments, and private individuals who want to live free of bed bugs. We wholly support your work and the work of dedicated individuals like Renee Corea and the lead being taken by the City of New York; you should be commended for leading the way for the rest of the country. Please let us know how we can be of assistance to you, the City of New York or anyone who is concerned about the spread of bed bugs in our country. Jeffrey

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2/23/2009

Siman, Adira

From: David Cain [davidcain@bed-bugs.co.uk]
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 2:01 PM
To: Siman, Adira
Cc: renee@newyorkvsbedbugs.org
Subject: submission for Bed Bug meeting 24th Feb 2009

Dear Adria Siman,

Please accept this letter as a submission to the New York City councils meeting on bed bugs to be held on 24th February 2009.

Firstly I would like to say thanks for taking this matter seriously enough to have these meetings and to look at legislation on the issue of bed bugs. Despite the fact that this is a global issue few countries are to date taking this level of action to deal with the matter. This approach will fail and some countries are becoming so over-run with the problem that they are unlikely to be able to solve the issue for several years.

As bed bugs are a pest of exposure control is ultimately dependant upon public awareness, this is compounded by the fact that about 60% of exposed people do not respond to the bites, thus the majority of affected people may not even be aware of the issue and will therefore be spreading the problem to others or between locations. Without making everyone aware of the issue through public health communication the reservoir of undetected infestations will simple continue to spread the problem. This communication needs to start at the school level to ensure that it breaks down the current inaccurate social stigmas surrounding the issue.

Bed Bugs also need to be awarded notifiable pest status so that infestations can be monitored and tracked as they develop. In 2008 my company conducted the first ever city wide infestation map of bed bug cases in London over the last 5 years. Combining this data with our own treatment records we have been able to illustrate that infestations are not random and in fact patterns that follow corridors and clusters have been illustrated, in the case of London we are aware that the public transport system carries a significant risk of the transmission of bed bugs in some areas. This is simply because non bite responders may not realise that after the infestation has developed un detected they can be transferred on peoples clothes and possessions. Ultimately this issue can only be tackled by public education but reporting and analysing infestation patterns will enable you to target specific areas.

Creating a notifiable pest status also enables you top develop a mechanism to ensure that all servicing companies are performing to acceptable standards and the time taken from reporting to clearance can be recorded and analysed. In the UK this would help to identify companies who are using inappropriate quantities of restricted products and 7 or 8 service visits to deal with infestations that should have been dealt with after 1 or 2 treatments.

You also need to find a mechanism to restrict the use of aerosol and fogger based products on bed bug infestations. As you will see from this research paper in 1992 they are not effective. What we can now confirm is that worse than not being effective they actually promote the spread of infestations within high density buildings.

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/entomology/entfacts/ef643.asp>

I am not convinced that the primary source in the US is second hand furniture and would therefore encourage your to devise a mechanism for ensuring that all second had furniture sales are required to

be inspected and certified as bed bug free. Although the removal of furniture from infected locations is not encouraged without appropriate protection it is a step that most people panic and do. It is therefore a severe economic burden to expect people to replace disposed of furniture with all new products when second hand items can be free from bed bugs if properly inspected.

I would also encourage you to ensure that over the next few years only specifically trained pest control technicians be allowed to work on infected locations. Although I started my pest control career as a generalists I have found that by specialising in this line of work I am able to offer a standard of service about 10 times greater than the world wide average for treatments. This is mainly because the skills necessary to be good at this type of work are not generally present in pest control professionals. It also stops the alarming practice that we are starting to see in some parts of London where people are going door to door canvassing for bed bug work, invariably they are offering a poor standard of treatment and are not leaving the appropriate legal documentation behind but without educating the public not to deal with these rogues the practise will continue.

I whole heartedly support the need to isolate and remove infected items using a defined process; it is something that I have advocated for a few years via my public information portal hosted at:
www.BedBugBeware.com

I appreciate that international submissions of information might appear a little unusually but I hope you will appreciate that I am doing this precisely because I have nothing to gain and wish to illustrate the key issues and legislative requirements. As the world first dedicated bed bug specialist I have seen this go from a rare pest to a major global problem, I sincerely hope that NYC take a firm stance with regards bed bugs and that it illustrates to other states and countries the need to legislate on this issue.

If I can be of any technical assistance or if you or your colleagues would like to see our mapping data from London please let me know. I can't stress enough that this is an issue which has already entered the live of far too many people regardless of social status and that will continue to spread unchallenged without a major initiative to educate and understand the issue.

Good luck with your endeavours.

Regards,

David Cain PgCert BSc (hons)
Managing Director
Bed Bugs Limited

Please copy all emails to: info@Bed-Bugs.co.uk in case I am out of the office

<http://www.Bed-Bugs.co.uk>-
Spread the word not the bed bugs

Check the web site for important information on how to avoid being exposed to this nuisance pest

FOR THE RECORD

Siman, Adira

From: ben gocker [ben.gocker@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 1:35 PM
To: Siman, Adira
Subject: Intro 873

To whom it may concern,

Living in New York City is stressful enough without having to come home to an apartment overrun with insects that make it impossible to sleep. Add sleepless nights to long hours at work, at school, and fulfilling family obligations and your average New Yorker would likely lose their mind--I know I've come close to it since I saw my first bed bug in August. We need to solve this growing problem (complaints of infestation are up 34% in the last fiscal year) so that New Yorkers can have peace of mind and a good night's rest. And in order to eradicate this problem, it's essential to inform property managers as well as extermination professionals as to the best methods of elimination. Perhaps the most difficult part of the eradication process in my experience has been convincing my landlord of some very basic facts about bed bugs and the ways in which they infest buildings, migrate from unit to unit, and prey on their victims. Property managers must have the most up to date information about these pests if they're going to take their tenants' concerns seriously and solve their problems. Standards must be put in place, policies enacted, and procedures followed. The neighborhood in which I live and work--community district 4--is home to high crime rates, profound poverty, and general disrepair--on top of that, it has one of the highest rates of bed bug infestation in the city. Certainly systemic poverty and crime are much harder problems to tackle--but bed bugs!? Come on, New York! You're a great city--now act like one and squash these bugs.

Sincerely,
Ben Gocker

2/23/2009

FOR THE RECORD

Siman, Adira

From: Timothy Riley [triley@nyc.rr.com]

Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 12:49 AM

To: Siman, Adira

I Tim Riley live in Manhattan Plaza and have been living out of bags for a month while every Tuesday they spray but bed bugs are still here. I see them here and there. I had to throw out most of my furniture and am going crazy. I can't afford to move or I would. I have a bad back and am on SSI \$720 a month and have to do laundry all the time, and have to buy expensive plastic bags all the time and all they do is tell me to be quiet. I also have COPD and am feeling weak and sick from the chemicals that are not killing all the bugs. Anyone who can help call me 646-709-7377 I don't want to piss the landlord off and have him turn on me but I can't stand living like this much longer

2/23/2009

FOR THE RECORD

Siman, Adira

From: Kristen Pelekanakis [mspelekanakis@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 3:58 PM
To: Siman, Adira
Cc: renee@newyorkvsbedbugs.org
Subject: Bed Bugs

I am writing in support of bill 873. I have recently begun my battle with bed bugs and it is greatly interfering with my quality of life. I have spent countless hours washing, drying, and bagging clothing. I obsessively check around me for bugs. I can't even sit on the train anymore because I am convinced I will reintroduce more into my home. The public needs to be more educated on this matter. I would also like to see legislation passed to help defray the cost of the most effective treatments. People will continue to try to treat by themselves if other methods are not affordable. This is a nightmare I would not wish on anyone, and I am only two and a half weeks in to it. The City needs to act now!

Sincerely,
Kristen Pelekanakis

Siman, Adira

FOR THE RECORD

From: Theodore Amber [tamber@nyc.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2009 4:57 PM
To: Siman, Adira
Cc: renee@newyorkvsbedbugs.org
Subject: Testimony - NYC Council Intro 873

My husband and I (Joan & Theodore Amber) are residents in one of Lefrak's rent-stabilized buildings located in Rego Park (Queens), New York. We are both senior citizens. We first realized that we had a bed bug infestation in the early morning of September 2, 2008. Here's a "short version" of our bedbug nightmare. (A more detailed version follows this one – for those interested in a better description of what can happen as a result of bedbug infestation)

When we discovered what we thought might be bedbugs, we immediately reported the problem. It took the landlord 2 weeks to put us in touch with their exterminator. The exterminator refused to inspect. Instead he advised us to prepare for a bedbug extermination immediately – a task that is not unlike preparing to move. We told the exterminator that we had to get assistance and would get back to him after we made a few calls. The exterminator told the landlord that we denied access. The landlord wrote us a letter stating that they had been advised that we had a bedbug problem (hey – we're the ones who advised them) and had denied access to their exterminator (not true) and that if we didn't call the building manager to make arrangements for the extermination, we would be charged for all future exterminations. We called the building manager, who never returned our call. I was so angry about the letter that I went to the HPD Internet site and discovered that a violation had been issued to our landlord for a bedbug infestation in another apartment in June – 3 months prior to our discovering bugs in our couch. I wrote a letter to several executives in our building's management department (2 each, one copy sent certified, one sent regular mail) and to the Super, refuting aspects of their letter to us and advising that I would be contacting HPD, just as the other tenant had, to file a complaint because their exterminator had refused to inspect our apartment and because it had taken them over 2 weeks to put us in touch with their exterminator.

HPD visited the apartment on 10-20-08, found bedbugs, and issued a violation on 10-22-08. In the meantime, on 10-27, we finally got the Super to make arrangements for the exterminator to inspect our apartment and to commence extermination. On 10-28, Management's legal representatives prepared a Notice of Termination advising that we had to vacate because we denied access to the landlord's exterminator. On 10-30, Management's legal representatives prepared the Notice of Petition advising us that we were being taken to court for eviction. This eviction process began 6 days after Housing Court issued a violation.

The (landlord's) exterminator's inspection took about 10 minutes – he said that he was a professional and only had to find one bedbug. We asked him about checking out the source and caulking prior to the actual extermination. He said that they didn't caulk and if we wanted that service we would have to do it ourselves. We then had to convince him that he needed to inspect more than the living room – like it was a good idea to check the master bedroom, too, and maybe even the 2nd bedroom. The extermination involved 2 spraying sessions – 2 weeks apart – with an exterminator who spent about 30 to 45 minutes each session spraying. After we got the apartment back into a livable condition, we made arrangements for the steaming. The Super gave us two options – we either had to operate the professional equipment ourselves or we could pay one of the building's employees \$100 to do it for us. We opted to pay, since neither one of us was able to handle the equipment.

As for the eviction – the landlord withdrew the case. Since the court action we've found out that at least 7 other apartments in our building have had bedbug infestations.

I hope you can appreciate how gung-ho my husband and I are for the NYC Council to come up with a really good law that will enable acceptable bedbug extermination services from landlords – something which not only benefits tenants, but – HELLO - landlords.

2/23/2009

If you want to read all of the nitty-gritty details of what we had to endure (and we aren't the only tenants who had to) - here's the long version:

I had arthroscopic shoulder surgery on July 21st and had started sleeping on the living room couch to avoid sleeping on the affected shoulder. The last week of August, I had begun to develop welts on my backside – legs, back, arms, and shoulders (including the area where I had the surgery). The itching was horrendous – and when I awoke 4 or 5 times during the early morning hours of 9-2, I noticed little oval reddish brown bugs on my gown.

We contacted our building's Management as well as the Super that morning to report we thought there were bedbugs in the apartment. We knew that if these were indeed bedbugs, we couldn't wait too long to take some immediate action, so that very day we went to a local hardware store and spoke to the owners about our situation. The owners at this store sell professional bedbug sprays, special powders, as well as plastic encasings and advised us of what to do in the interim until our landlord's exterminator could inspect for bedbugs. We treated the couch and surrounding areas with the power and spray, vacuumed the couch extensively, and encased the couch in plastic.

It's a good thing we took these measures, because it was 2 weeks before Management put us in touch with their exterminator. And just before we spoke with the exterminator, the Super told us to throw out our couch and our bed. The couch was about a year and a half old, and we had purchased our \$2K bed 4 ½ months earlier.

When we finally spoke with him, the exterminator refused to inspect – he just advised us to empty all drawers, cabinets, closets, EVERYTHING; to wash and/or dry clean all clothing and bedding, and to pull all the furniture away from the walls, because he was going to exterminate for bedbugs. We asked him why he wouldn't inspect, because we had done some homework and learned that, if the problem was bedbugs, it was necessary for a professional exterminator to find the source of where the vermin were coming from in order to caulk floor and wall areas to prevent further infestation (not only of our apartment, but also the entire building).

We are both senior citizens and knew that we couldn't prepare for an extermination of this magnitude without assistance. I would be of little help because I was (and still am) recovering from shoulder surgery. To make a long story short – after we advised the exterminator that we had to get assistance in order to prepare – even though we were unhappy with the fact that he had refused an inspection (after all, what if the problem wasn't bedbugs?). So we started our search for assistance in preparing for the extermination. In the meantime, the exterminator advised Management that we had denied him access to our apartment.

Management sent us a letter dated 9-25 stating that they had been notified that we may have a bedbug problem (well, that's true – we notified them almost a month earlier that there may be bedbugs in our apartment) and that we had better contact the our building's manager to arrange for an extermination immediately or we would be held responsible for any future exterminations in the building.

This made me angry – because we were long time tenants who paid our rent on time and reported any issues that might be of concern for the upkeep of the building to the Super and to Management.

So, I went to the HPD site, discovered that another tenant in our building had complained about bedbugs in June, had an HPD inspector come to his apartment, which resulted in a violation being issued. So, on October 3, 2008, I wrote a letter to several Management executives, copied the super and advised that I was not happy about having received a threatening letter when we are the ones who had advised them on 9-2 that we had a problem. I told them that their exterminator refused to inspect and that inspection was mandatory if our problem was bedbugs. I also advised them that I would be contacting HPD to have an inspector come to our apartment – because **someone** needed to inspect to determine whether or not we had a bedbug infestation in order for the apartment to be exterminated properly. I sent each executive a certified copy of the letter in addition to a copy (for each) delivered regular mail.

HPD inspected our entire apartment on October 20th and found evidence of bedbugs. A violation was sent to our landlord on October 22, 2008. On October 28th, **6 days after the violation was sent to our**

landlord (LeFrak – Mid State Management), a Notice of Termination was prepared to advise us that our lease would be terminated on 11-14-2008 because we had denied access to their exterminator. On October 30th, before the termination of our lease, the landlord's attorney signed a Notice of Petition.

In the meantime, we had already made arrangements through the Super to commence extermination, which would take place in 2 sessions, followed by access to a professional steam machine – and we were even able to convince the landlord's exterminator to **inspect** our apartment. Maybe it was because we told them that HPD had found bedbugs.

On October 31st, we received the Notice of Termination documents – 6 copies in all (2 certified, 4 regular mail) addressed to Theodore Amber and to "John and/or Jane Doe". I was so angry and upset that I hired a landlord/tenant attorney the following week.

The landlord's exterminator came on November 4th to inspect for bedbugs. When he arrived, he told us that he had 7 other apartments to inspect and that he needed to hurry up and get started. I asked him if we should move the couch away from the wall, so that he could determine where the bedbugs were coming from. He said that wouldn't be necessary. I asked him to let me know how they would be able to determine where to caulk. He told us that if any caulking was to be done, it would be our responsibility to do so, because they don't provide this service.

Then he said – and these are his exact words – "I'm a professional. I only need to see one bedbug." I had a lot of trouble convincing him that he needed to inspect more than the couch in the living room – I thought it was a good idea for him to inspect the bedrooms.

It took over a week to make laundry arrangements, and with the assistance from helpers (to whom we paid hundreds of cash dollars) to pack everything up, and pull all the furniture away from the walls and into the middle of the room. On 11-10-2008, the exterminator spent about 1 hour spraying our 2 bedroom apartment (for the first of 2 sessions). We had to stay at a motel that night and also had to board our pets (for 3 days). Call professional bed bug exterminators, or research them on the Internet, and you'll find that most spend 3 to 4 hours spraying.

The next day, the exterminator advised us that we couldn't move any of the furniture back into place or even begin to pick up laundry, and unpack until after the second spraying, which took place on 11-24. And, again, we had to stay at a motel that night and board our pets for 3 more days. We lived in chaos during this period of time.

Meanwhile, on November 13th, one day before our lease was supposed to terminate, a Notice of Petition was left on our door. You can't begin to imagine the errors listed in the NOP. We got a new apartment number in the body of the petition – apartment 11D – and the respondents named in the body of the petition happened to be the tenants who had complained about bedbugs in June, which resulted in a violation being issued to the landlord.

Back to the eviction case. Our first court date was November 24, 2008 – the same day as our second spraying. (What a coincidence! So we had to make arrangements for someone to be in our apartment to allow access to the exterminator, who recorded the time spent spraying as 45 minutes). At any rate, there was postponement that day. The next court date was scheduled for December 22nd.

After the second spraying, it took us about 2 to 3 weeks to get the apartment back into shape. But by December 6th, we were able to make arrangements with the Super for access to a professional steamer. By this time, we had convinced him that we were simply unable to operate the equipment on our own – so he offered to have someone who worked at the building do the steaming for us, provided that we paid \$100 for the service. We had no choice – we paid the man, who came on December 10th (a workday, so we *again* had to pay someone to be there to provide access and to supervise). When he came to steam, the landlord's employee plugged the professional machine into a power strip instead of directly into an outlet. Needless to say, he blew almost every fuse in the apartment. (Thank God our computers and high definition TV didn't "blow" – we may be senior citizens, but we're tech savvy.)

By this point in my letter, I hope you can appreciate how gung-ho my husband and I are for the Council to

come up with a really good law that will require landlords to provide acceptable bedbug extermination services – something which not only benefits tenants, but – HELLO - landlords.

Now – back to the eviction, which may not seem applicable, but it is – because look at what some landlords do to take advantage of New York City's bedbug problem. They take no real responsibility for the Warranty of Habitability requirements.

On our second court date, there was another adjournment – but the landlord's attorney requested a stipulation – that we pay 1 month's rent (we gave the attorney the check we had sent in for November's rent, but which the landlord returned "because there was pending litigation"), and our giving the landlord access to our apartment on December 29, 2008. We waited, all day on 12-29 for the landlord to show up, but no one did. The next court date was scheduled for 1-27-2009.

On January 27, 2009 we arrived at 9AM, registered as required when the doors opened at 9:30. We came with a witness – the President of our Landlord/Tenant association. Around 11:30 or 12, our lawyer called us into a small room (outside the court room) and advised us that a strange twist of affairs had occurred. The landlord had withdrawn the case. He said that THEY said it was because we had complied and had the apartment exterminated. (LeFrak also withdrew their case against the other tenant, from apartment 11D, they took to court - another retaliatory eviction case).

I was livid. Why? The landlord got away with taking us to court in an attempt to evict us for retaliatory reasons. The landlord got away with a breach of the Warranty of Habitability provision. The landlord also harassed us during this time, denying us other services, and trying to get me to sign a document (on January 4, 2009) that they said was from housing court. This document stated that they visited our apartment on 12-29 (a date THEIR lawyer set forth in a stipulation dated 12-22) when they were a no show.

The landlord caused us to incur thousands of dollars worth of expenses, which might have been prevented had they instructed their exterminator to spray common areas in the building – and had their exterminator been trained to properly exterminate the affected apartments. Yes – there were more than 2 apartments infested with bedbugs.

There were complaints of bedbug infestations a full 3 months before we experienced a problem. In the past 2 weeks, we have learned at least 7 other apartments in our building have experienced bedbug infestations. We know one tenant whose apartment has been re-infested by bedbugs.

Well, this is the end of my tale. Or is it? I haven't had a decent night's sleep since this ordeal started. I wake up between 4 and 5 times almost every night with the following thought shouting out at me: "Don't let the bed bugs bite!"

I urge you to get some legislation passed – before everyone in NYC begins to itch!

Joan & Theodore Amber
98-01 67th Avenue #10V
Rego Park, NY 11374

FOR THE RECORD

From: gp [mailto:gp4549@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2009 11:45 PM
To: 'asiman@council.nyc.gov'
Cc: 'renee@newyorkvsbedbugs.org.'
Subject: EDUCATING SANITATION DEPT WORKERS ABOUT BED BUGS

I have A bedbug infestation in my apt. Per instructions from my Pest Management Professional (PMP), I put my garbage in black contractor bags with sign "bed bugs inside" & put it out with other garbage from my bldg, at the curb, on the evening before scheduled sanitation dept pick-up . (The reason for the "bedbugs inside" sign was to discourage street people from tearing my garbage bags.) The following evening I saw that all garbage bags that I put out the previous evening were still in the street. The super of my building told me that the sanitation dept had picked up all the garbage from the building except mine.

After 3 calls to 311, contacting my council member's office, & emailing Mayor Bloomberg, I got phone calls from 2 sanitation supervisors the following morning. I explained my situation & educated them somewhat about the bedbug problem. Each supervisor asked whether my Pest Management Pro should be taking the garbage away! My garbage was picked up on the next scheduled collection day, but I worry that it may not be picked up next time. In one of my calls to 311 I was told that the reason my garbage bags may not have been picked up was because recyclables were not separated. I was told to separate recyclables (in clear bags) & put garbage out for next scheduled collection day. I did point out to 311 operator that sanitation workers had no way of knowing what was in my garbage bags because I used contractor bags, which are opaque & very thick. It made no sense to me to have my potentially bed bug infested garbage go to a recycling facility. The 311 operator also told me that she had no regulations in her database about handling garbage that is potentially infested with bed bugs.

I THINK THAT IMMEDIATE STEPS NEED TO BE TAKEN TO EDUCATE SANITATION DEPT STAFF ABOUT HANDLING GARBAGE THAT IS POTENTIALLY INFECTED WITH BED BUGS. 311 OPERATORS ALSO NEED TO BE EDUCATED ABOUT THIS, SO THAT THEY KNOW HOW TO HANDLE COMPLAINTS ABOUT THIS ISSUE. PEOPLE LIKE ME, WHO HAVE TO DEAL WITH A BED BUG PROBLEM, HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL JUST PREPARING THEIR APARTMENT FOR THE EXTERMINATION.

Also every effort needs to be made to find ways of exterminating bed bugs that do not involve the very time consuming & labor intensive preparation of premises currently required for exterminating bed bugs

Your attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Gail Peters

Also, I have a P.S. to add. This morning I received a phone call from another sanitation dept supervisor—I got the impression that he was at an even higher level than the supervisors who had called me before. I don't want to get him into trouble, because he was helpful--he gave me the direct phone no. for the supervisor of my sanitation district & told me to call him if I had any future problems with having my garbage collected. **HOWEVER, THE SUPERVISOR WHO CALLED ME TODAY TOLD ME NOT TO LABEL MY GARBAGE WITH THE SIGN "BED BUGS INSIDE" TO AVOID "CREATING A SCARE"**. (He did understand that the reason for my sign was to minimize the chances that street people would rip the bags open.) He also said that usually garbage with special labeling, such as "MEDICAL

WASTE" is not picked up by NYC sanitation dept., & that people do not label garbage that might have, for example, ants in it.

I THINK THAT THIS SUPERVISOR NEEDS TO BE EDUCATED ABOUT THE NEED TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF BED BUG INFESTATIONS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. TO THIS END GARBAGE THAT MAY HAVE BED BUGS IN IT SHOULD HAVE A SIGN ON IT INDICATING THIS. THE WAY TO PREVENT "CREATING A SCARE" IS TO EDUCATE PEOPLE, NOT TO HIDE THE PROBLEM IN A WAY THAT MAY CONTRIBUTE TO SPREADING THE PROBLEM (BY NOT LABELING GARBAGE).

AND, OF COURSE, SANITATION DEPT NEEDS TO BE EDUCATED THAT THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PICKING UP GARBAGE THAT MAY HAVE BED BUGS IN IT—THAT THIS IS NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EXTERMINATORS & THAT SUCH GARBAGE DOES NOT REQUIRE PICK UP BY PRIVATE COMPANIES. NYC MY DECIDE TO HAVE A SEPARATE SANITATION DEPT DETAIL PICK UP SUCH GARBAGE, BUT THIS IS UP TO NYC TO DECIDE AFTER DETERMINING WHETHER IT IS EVEN NECESSARY.

OBVIOUSLY, PEOPLE IN GENERAL NEED TO BE EDUCATED AS WELL—TO RECOGNIZE BED BUGS & TO MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING HOME BED BUGS FROM USED FURNITURE, MATTRESSES, ETC.

FOR THE RECORD

Siman, Adira

From: Andrea Flynn [arflynn2004@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2009 10:18 PM
To: Siman, Adira
Subject: [From Vwall: Suspected SPAM]: City Council Meeting: Bed Bugs

Dear Ms. Siman:

I write regarding the upcoming City Council meeting on February 24th about the bedbug problem in New York city. Unfortunately, I am not able to attend as I am out of town for business, but would very much like to express my support for the city to take swift and comprehensive measures to eradicate this problem and provide clear guidelines and laws to protect tenants. I have recently been through an infestation that has personally cost me well over \$10,000 in lost furniture and belongings not to mention lost time at work, the costs of hotel accommodations, rent paid for time during which my apartment was not habitable and a two month ordeal of dealing with this absolutely horrifying situation. I am also in business school and had to drop a class (which had already been paid for) in order to deal with all that was involved in this nightmare. Please note, I am a working professional and live in a doorman "luxury" apartment building for which I pay \$2,400/ month for a studio apartment plus utilities. Given the scale of the crisis, the lack of laws in New York city to protect unsuspecting citizens from the city's escalating public health crisis is nothing short of disgraceful. I was deeply upset to learn of the astronomical increase in the number of new cases in NYC (over 100% in some neighborhoods) over the last several years only after this experience. The fact that the city government has known about the rapidly escalating scale of this problem and the potentially enormous financial, emotional and potentially medical burden it places on its residents and not taken drastic action is just plain wrong. Immediate action needs to be taken to ensure that this epidemic is contained and more residents do not needlessly suffer through this type of horrible ordeal. If there is anything I can do to help move this process forward, please let me know. For the time being, I would like this communication to remain confidential unless we first discuss any proposed use for it and/or my testimony.

Best regards,

Andrea Flynn

2/19/2009

Siman, Adira

From: Liberty Info [info@libertypestnyc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:05 AM
To: Siman, Adira
Cc: renee@newyorkvsbedbugs.org
Subject: Bedbug Legislation Hearing 02/24/09

FOR THE RECORD

Liberty Pest Control, Inc., an industry leader est. in 1996, has been actively involved in bedbug removals, as requested, throughout the NY metropolitan area. In the last 18 months we have serviced nearly 900 individual units- not including the retreatments for re-occurring problems. The situation, although not life threatening, is most definitely having a detrimental effect on those affected. We find that even when premises have been completely free of the pest for months, it seems one or two have actually "hibernated" (since they can survive for months without food) inside a mattress or crevice and resurfaced to create havoc. The stress to those involved is intense and unnerving.

Public education as to prevention should be made available on a widespread basis. Bedbugs are not a product of a "dirty house" but a transfer problem. They can be carried in with old furniture; used mattresses; on clothes; contact with objects and people; seats in subways, restaurants, theaters etc.. Bedbugs will travel between apartments through conduits, wiring, cracks and crevices. We should all be alert to our environs in order to reduce the spread of bedbugs. Short of a full blown bedbug treatment, they will die in hot water or in a hot dryer.

The second item, and most important, in the education process is once a treatment is necessary- an extensive preparation by the customer is key to the extermination process. A list is provided on how to prepare and includes post-treatment advice. Sometimes cleaning items alone is not enough and they must be discarded (mattresses, bed frames, rugs etc.). The treatment and replacement costs can be considerable and most times customers don't or won't comply completely. Unfortunately this only exacerbates the problem.

We firmly believe that the financial factor to the consumer (treatment and replacement costs), and the hardship involved pre and post treatments, are major contributors to the increase of the bedbug growth in New York City.

John Raimonda
 Director of Operations

2/18/2009

www.libertypestnyc.com

Liberty Pest Control, Inc.
8220 17 Avenue
Brooklyn NY 11214
718-837-9030

2/18/2009

FOR THE RECORD

Siman, Adira

From: melissa rodriguez [missypop98@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 3:31 PM
To: Siman, Adira
Cc: renee@newyorkvsbedbugs.org
Subject: re: bed bugs

Dear Ms. Siman,

I understand that the city council will be having a meeting on February 24th to discuss the creation of a Bed Bug Task Force. I can't tell you how important this is for me as well as all of the other residents of the city who are struggling with this problem. My family and I have lived in the same apt for over 15 years and just a few months ago we started noticing these strange bites. After doing some research on the internet I finally figured out what we were dealing with. I have been bitten all over my arms, legs, hands, and face. I am forced to sleep with long sleeve shirts and long pants regardless of how hot it may be in my apartment because the more skin you have exposed the more they bite you. The bites don't appear right away and when they do they sometimes itch for days and the marks they leave on your skin take weeks to go away.

Now we know that we definitely have bed bugs and will have to go to a great deal of trouble to get rid of them and we also will have to get rid of and replace all of our mattresses, possibly the sofa and who knows what else. During these difficult economic times the last thing people need is to have to spend thousands of dollars on extermination services as well as replacing mattresses and sofas. I understand that part of the problem is that the different departments in the city can't decide who should be responsible for this matter. Whether it be sanitation or health department; this a problem that will soon become a huge epidemic if the city doesn't stop dragging it's feet about who should take care of what. No one in my household had done any traveling. We didn't get these bugs from staying in an infested hotel. We believe they must have come from a neighboring apartment. Bed bugs are more than just a minor nuisance. Imagine trying to sleep at night when you know that little bugs will be crawling all over and biting you while you sleep. Or the embarrassment of going to work and taking off your cardigan and hearing your co-workers gasp at the sight of all the bites on your arms.

I encourage you to please do everything you can to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Melissa Rodriguez

Get more out of the Web. Learn 10 hidden secrets of Windows Live. [Learn Now](#)

2/17/2009

FOR THE
RECORD

Dear members of The New York City Council:

I had the unfortunate experience of living in a bed bug infested building on Montrose Avenue at Bushwick Avenue, Brooklyn, in 2004. Due to lack of public information and education on the subject, the landlord, exterminator, and fellow residents of the building did not know what the problem was until it was full-blown. All 8 units in my building were covered with bugs, and I watched, without knowing why, as tenants brought their furniture through the hallways literally dripping bugs onto the floor to put out onto the street. I then watched as my neighbors ran to collect what they thought was a great find.

Once the problem was diagnosed it was too late for me to prevent infestation in my apartment. I woke up with bugs on my body, and they were in my bed when I pulled the sheets back in the morning. I found them on all surfaces of my apartment. I single handedly pulled apart and put into plastic bags the bed I had slept in all my life – one that my mother and grandmother had slept in before me -- that had become a crawling, infested nest of bugs, eggs, and fecal matter. The situation was simply horrifying. I was forced to get rid of everything I owned that could not be washed or dry-cleaned. And this is all aside from the fact that I was covered in large, red welts from my torso, to my arms, the palms of my hands, the soles of my feet, my neck, and my face.

I am still, 5 years later, haunted by my experience. It was three years before I was able to get a full night sleep for fear of a new infestation. What keeps me up these days is the fact that this problem still goes unrecognized and virtually untreated by our city, where we are all only separated by walls that are easily permeated by these tiny creatures. I hope you can see I am not being dramatic when I say that I am terrified of the possibility of being exposed to them again.

It is with all of this in mind that I respectfully urge you to support the introduced legislation in the New York City Council (Int. 57-2006, 873-2008 and 872-2008) that would create a bed bug task force, an education program and bed bug trash guidelines.

It is essential for us as a city to combat this problem. If we do not, it will ultimately affect us all.

Thank you for your time, and your consideration.

Sincerely,

Meg Friar-Plikaitis
764 Metropolitan Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11211
917.648.5137

For THE RECORD

Siman, Adira

From: Haylee Hicken [hayleekins@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 6:57 PM
To: Siman, Adira
Cc: renee@newyorkvsbedbugs.org
Subject: bedbug testimony

To Whom it may Concern,

My name is Haylee Hicken and I am unfortunately unable to attend the public hearing on Feb. 24th. My infestation began November 2008 and I am still dealing with the problem today. It is one of the most traumatizing and stressful things I have ever had to deal. I have a 2 bedroom apartment in Hamilton Heights (west 139th street at broadway) where I live with my husband and a female roommate. My husband and I are in school full time and our roommate works full time. Our landlord has been unresponsive to our complaints so we hired our own exterminator and deducted costs from the rent. We are now being taken to court by our landlord who is trying to recover this money. We are convinced that the entire building needs to be treated because we are unable to rid our apartment of the infestation. We have spent more time and money on this situation than we can afford and now we are being forced to move knowing we may still bring the problem with us. I have lost more sleep than I can afford as well because of being eaten alive at night. When we move will will most likely have to throw away the majority of our furniture and belongings. The problem has caused numerous fights between my husband and I and it is tearing us apart! Any type of legislation to control this exploding problem would be welcomed. The tenants of New York City need more rights and more help in the bed bug fight. Many low income tenants cannot afford a good exterminator service and most landlords are not willing to do anything about it or they hire cheap, unknowledgeable services. Please, please help us pass these bills. This problem is tearing peoples lives apart!

Thank you! -Haylee Hicken (707) 685-5282
600 West 139th st. #3
Ny, Ny 10031

2/13/2009

Siman, Adira

From: Caitlin Delohery [delohery@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, February 15, 2009 10:39 PM

To: Siman, Adira

Subject: Bed Bugs

FOR THE RECORD

Dear Ms. Siman,

I read on a Brooklyn blog that you were accepting email testimony on the so-called New York vs. Bed Bugs public hearings.

My name is Caitlin Delohery and I'm a writer and English professor living in Crown Heights. My roommate and I noticed that we had bedbugs at the beginning of this year and in the past six weeks, my life has been hellish. The bedbug infestation happened to coincide with a carbon monoxide leak in my building, so I had both carbon monoxide poisoning and an allergic reaction to the pesticides the exterminators used to get rid of the bed bugs. I have had constant upper respiratory problems, as the exterminators have come **three times** . . . and I am still being bitten.

The lengths that I have had to go to to prepare for these sprays -- bagging and laundering every piece of cloth in my house, putting all my unlaunderable possessions in Ziplock bags -- has been about the equivalent of moving every two weeks in terms of physical and emotional stress. The social stigma of having bedbugs is serious as well; anyone who has witnessed the trauma of a bedbug infestation will rightly be hesitant to allow a contaminated friend into her home.

Taking care of a bedbug infestation requires that you behave like an insane person: disrobing before you enter your home, waking up at 5 am to shine a flashlight on your mattress, smearing Vaseline on your bedposts, laundering any piece of cloth that touches the floor, avoiding human touch, being unable to sleep for fear of vermin crawling all over your body. It's not a surprise that the most common complaint of people with bedbugs is mental anguish.

In previous apartments, I have had mice and I have had cockroaches. I would gladly welcome those relatively benign beasts into my home in exchange for the bedbugs. Seriously, release a subway station of roaches into my kitchen, and enough mice to populate a John Hopkins med lab, and I will name all of them and keep them as my beloved pets if someone can just get rid of these tiny vampires that are making my life a dreary, crazymaking hell.

Thank you!,
Caitlin Delohery
664 Sterling Place, #2
Brooklyn, NY 11216

2/17/2009



United Federation of Teachers
A Union of Professionals

February 23, 2009

FOR THE RECORD

Councilman Joel Rivera
Councilman Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Councilman Robert Jackson
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Dear Councilmen Rivera, Comrie, and Jackson:

We strongly support the New York City Council Proposed Int. No. 873-A, which would require the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to:

- create a bed bug control training program for pest control providers and property owners
- make available bed bug information on the NYCDOHMH Website, including a list of exterminators who have satisfactorily completed the bed bug control training program
- establish a bed bug toll-free hotline, such as the 311 citizen service center, for the public to report bed bug infestations and request bed bug control information.

Over the past several years we have seen an increase in the number of schools where bed bugs have been sighted, captured and confirmed to be bed bugs. The number of schools with confirmed bed bug specimens was 75 from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 and then 125 from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. So far this year from July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008, a total of 92 schools had confirmed bed bug specimens and over 50% of these schools have recurring bed bug sightings and confirmations.

The New York City Department of Education Division of School Facilities (DSF) Pest Control Unit visits each school where bed bugs have been confirmed. The DOE DSF Pest Control unit conducts a visual inspection of the affected rooms or areas and where necessary treats affected areas with an exempt product, safe for humans. *However, providing pest control services in the schools does not prevent bed bugs from being transported into the building by students or others who have bed bug infestations in the home.*

Bed bug infestations are extremely challenging to eradicate. We know of a number of schools where a student arrives daily with bed bugs as a result of a chronic infestation in the home. Parents can become overwhelmed in trying to get a landlord to deal appropriately with the infestation. We are concerned for the health and safety of students who are living in an environment with a chronic bed bug infestation as well as for the potential for such infestations to increase in our school communities.

Our school communities need access to the resources this legislation will provide. We urge you to pass Proposed Int. No. 873-A.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellie Engler". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ellie Engler

UFT Assistant to the President

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

DIVISION OF INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

February 24, 2009

Mr. Leroy G. Comrie, Jr., Chairperson

Mr. Joel Rivera, Chairperson,

Mr. Robert Jackson, Chairperson

The New York City Council Committees on Consumer Affairs, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Department of Sanitation and Solid Waste Management

Committee Hearing on:

Intro 57- A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to the sale of reconditioned mattresses and creation of a Bed Bug Task Force;

Intro 872 - A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to the disposal of mattresses and furniture;

Intro 873A - A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to establish a bed bug technique training program for pest control;

Res 1414 - Resolution calling on the New York State Department of State to promulgate standards and rules concerning the sanitization of mattresses that include requirements sufficient to eradicate bedbugs in reconditioned mattresses before their sale.

On September 18, 2006, I addressed the Committee on Consumer Affairs to provide testimony on the common bed bug, *Cimex lectularius*, its unfortunately close relationship with people (the preferred host) along with pertinent biological information and also its relationship to recycled or refurbished mattresses.

I am an entomologist on staff in the Division of Invertebrates at the American Museum of Natural History and also a consultant to the pest management industry, medical community, and many other disciplines. An article in the recent Sunday New York Times referred to me as "the man who lets the bed bugs bite". I maintain a small colony of several thousand bed bugs for research and demonstration purposes. I am their sole means of nutrition (but according to IRS ruling not allowed to claim them as dependents). I have received public inquiries over the past 30 years concerned with many types of arthropods including insects (beetles, butterflies, and dragonflies), arachnids (spiders, mites, and scorpions) and myriapods (centipedes and millipedes), all usually referred to as "bugs" by the general public. I began receiving bed bug inquiries in the late 1980s. Over the past few years I have presented many talks on many insect subjects including bed bugs to a variety of audiences including many in this city. Some of the participants from today's panel have collaborated on some of the presentations including three that were the monthly meetings of The New York Entomological Society and open to the public. Pest control personnel received continuing education NYSDEC re-certification credit for attending. As a matter of fact, the American Museum of Natural History once housed a Department of Health that was formed in 1910 and disbanded in 1922. It launched many special exhibits and public lectures on various health-related subjects including the relationship of insects, disease and humans. A bed bug was one of the many insect models produced for exhibition during the tenure of that department.

Cimex lectularius, the common bed bug, is known by many common names (some of which include several unmentionable words), but "bed bug", unfortunately, happens to be a bad choice of words. A common misconception is that it is restricted to the bedroom and sheets and mattresses and simply spraying the baseboards and treating the bed or throwing away items will solve the problem. The insect lives almost anywhere it can fit its small body and often this is near you - its food source. But its fit depends upon which of its immature or adult life stages is being considered. Unfortunately, information on most Internet sites, printed descriptive materials by pest control firms, health departments and the like, plus articles in magazines and newspapers and stories on radio and television describe and or show the adult stage when referring to the common bed bug. For that reason alone it is well known that this insect is somewhat flat and circular, reddish brown and 1/4 inch (4-5 mm) long. It is actually a bit larger and football shaped after sucking its meal of blood from you.

So why is this distinctive insect so difficult to manage? Immature developmental stages called nymphs (of which there are five) begin life after first hatching from the 1/32 inch (1 mm) long egg that has been deposited by the female, most likely in a small crack or crevice in furniture, behind a picture, in or on a box spring or mattress, behind molding or inside a wall in which she hides usually with others. It has a sticky secretion on it and it therefore adheres well to where it has been deposited. The female lays batches of eggs over a period of days for a total of 100 to 400 or more eggs during her lifetime of about 10 months. Eggs hatch in about 10-14 days and under ideal conditions the life cycle takes from 5 to 8 weeks. Under adverse conditions generation time can be extended many months. There can be up to 3 generations per year in the northeast. The first nymph stage is about 1/32 inch (1 mm) long and pale straw-colored and thinner than the thickness of the paper upon which this testimony is printed. However, it will soon be plump and bright red after having sucked your blood for a few minutes although recently hatched bed bugs can wait 4-6 weeks or longer at room temperature if a host is not available. Soon after feeding, it crawls away and hides to digest its liquid meal, which allows it to grow, molt its skin and continue to the next nymphal stage until the fifth and then the adult male or female. It can feed more than once before digesting the blood and then shedding its skin. To assist in the visualization of size of the first nymph, one can measure the thickness of a credit card between the thumb and forefinger. In doing so, you have measured the length of a newly hatched nymph.

The common or human bed bug, *Cimex lectularius*, is an obligate blood-feeding insect that is essentially wingless during all of its life (although small wing pads are evident in the adult stage). Typical of true bugs, the bed bug has a hinged, segmented, beak-like proboscis composed of modified slender mouthparts called stylets, collectively called a fascicle, and a lower lip or labium that encases the fascicle for its protection. The insect feeds by inserting its slender fascicle through the person's skin as the labium is bent out of the way. The bug slowly bobs its head up and down to search for a capillary through which it sucks blood until full. If bothered, it will search out another spot and try again. Anesthetic and salivary secretions are pumped in through one canal in the fascicle while blood is sucked up through the other. Feeding times vary from a few minutes up to about 10 minutes, depending on the

life stage and prior feedings. Multiple bites experienced by people result either from multiple feedings by a single bug and/or from multiple feedings by many bugs. After feeding, the bug crawls to a hiding place often where others are hiding where it can remain for days, weeks, or months depending on ambient conditions. It will molt to its next nymphal or adult stage and feed again, but the adult bed bug can go without blood for a long period of time of perhaps many months and under certain cool conditions, possibly twelve months. Recently hatched 1st instar nymphs can go for a month and a half or longer without a first blood meal.

Early detection is central to reducing bed bugs infestations in entire buildings. Inspectors, Pest Management Professionals (PMPs), Pest Control Operators (PCOs), exterminators, supers, the general public often are not aware of the multiple search images one must have of bed bugs in order to discover if a home is infested. Adult and immature bugs, eggs, egg shells, shed skins, and fecal staining are all important signs to look for and correct educational materials are needed to assure that people know what to look for in identifying bed bug infestations. True bugs produce characteristic pungent odors from specialized body glands and bed bug alarm odor has been described as being similar to coriander (cilantro) and citronella. An April 1998 Canadian agriculture public document on spices noted that "the unripe fruits [of coriander] have a smell that has been compared to that of bedbugs. The plant is named after *koris*, the Greek word for bug." This odor is the alarm pheromone and not their everyday odor. Bed bugs smell like bed bugs and canine scent detection is one tool that aids in pinpointing sites of infestation so that inspection search times are reduced and early detection is accomplished. Special attractant traps have been designed and are now coming into the marketplace. There are many non-chemical methods of bed bug eradication including low vapor steam, infra red heat, forced high heat, extreme cold, hot water washing and hot dryers. Special box spring and mattress encasements are highly recommended. There are many insecticides labeled for bed bugs, but not a wide range of chemicals. True gas fumigation is also available. There are also documented bed bug populations resistant to certain insecticides and it's important to collect bed bugs from many sites of infestation so these can be sent to scientific institutions that are studying chemical resistance in order to employ the proper insecticide to control such populations. This phenomenon is analogous to antibiotic resistance in certain health issues and the physician must prescribe specific drugs and not general ones to treat certain infections.

The bite is often painless and usually occurs during the night while the person sleeps, but hungry bugs can feed during the daylight hours as well, especially in dimly lit rooms. Reactions to bites vary from person to person. Some people experience almost no symptoms, while others experience small to large welts, sometimes with persistent skin lesions, extreme itchiness and swelling, and must seek medical attention. There is a reported case in 1955 in Ohio of bed bug bite anaphylaxis initially diagnosed as a heart attack. Early in the 1990s many bed bug bite lesions were overlooked and misdiagnosed because physicians weren't familiar with bed bugs.

There is a social stigma associated with having bed bugs and this affects the psychological

health of an individual as well. Sleeplessness and irritability affect productivity at work. Guilt and disgust on the part of the homeowner may also affect proper and timely inspection and treatment. Treatment that should have been performed in one apartment may now have to be undertaken in adjacent ones since bugs have had time to travel and infest additional homes. The PMP normally provides information sheets to the homeowners so they can prepare for the visit and often more than one visit is required to eradicate bugs from the home. IPM requires cooperation from all parties and relies on many methods of insect management including pesticide treatment. In some cases the landlord or managing agent feels that the price for bed bug eradication is too high and takes other measures such as accepting a really low bid and doesn't receive proper bed bug treatment after all, or provides insecticides to tenants and has them try to control bed bugs on their own. This fails miserably. There are many cases of extensive infestation in homes where elderly or mentally challenged people live and sometimes aides are known to unknowingly carry bed bugs from client to client. Special consideration and assistance should be provided to people who require special help. Tenants do not report infestations to the landlord or managing agent for many reasons: One is fear that he or she is the only one infested and the blame for infestation will be placed on their shoulders. In a certain percentage of cases, the homeowner doesn't want to prepare or refuses to properly prepare for treatment and possibly feels that the pest controller should do everything, and the landlord or management agent should do everything since they are responsible for getting rid of (paying for) pests. It's recommended to inspect adjoining apartments when one is infested, especially in cases of heavy infestation. What can be done in situations where people do not cooperate and refuse even these inspections let alone refuse to cooperate and treat? These actions place the other apartments at risk for infestation and continual re-infestation.

Cimex lectularius is an insect that readily infests high priced condominiums, apartments and expensive hotels as well as low-income housing, tenements, and motels. It has been taken from university dormitories, resort hotels, offices, and luxury cruise ships. The insect often resides or harbors nearest its host, possibly by hiding on or in the mattress and box spring, and on pillows and be collected from along seams, tufts, and flaps of fabric, but not always and harborage sites may be further removed from the person. Inspection reveals bugs on and within the wooden and spring framework of the box spring, and also in cracks, seams, hollow areas, and recessed screw holes of the bed frame. Bed bugs hide within platform beds, so their drawers must be slid out and the unit dismantled in order to inspect and treat. Cimicids also hide near beds and in night tables and inside and behind the headboard (especially if the latter is hung on a wall), behind paintings, peeling paint, loosened wallpaper, tack strips of wall-to-wall carpeting, loose carpeting, window and door moldings, crown molding, draperies, and other furniture such as wooden tables, chairs, sleep sofas, couches, other fabric covered furniture plus space within electric wall outlets and switches, televisions, monitors, computers, and radios. They readily crawl into stored items under beds, and crawl into luggage and baggage in closets as long as space permits their bodies to enter. The insects are not restricted to homes, but readily infest offices because workers unknowingly bring them from home because the people do not realize that their homes are infested.

Bed bugs are efficient hitchhikers and are primarily transferred via furniture such as mattresses, box springs, and donated furniture, but also via luggage and boxed materials, and to a much lesser extent, on hanging clothing. Travelers may unknowingly pick up bed bugs and transfer these to their home, which may be in a new country. Recycled furniture must be examined and properly treated if infested. Rented furniture if not inspected and treated will transfer bed bugs from one home to another. Discarded, bed bug-infested, furniture, mattresses and box springs will initiate an infestation in another apartment or house if brought in from the streets and not inspected and treated. They crawl on wiring, water pipes and through conduits that electricians, plumbers, cable TV, and Fios installers use all the time and don't realize that they are creating highways upon which or within which the bed bugs crawl from apartment to apartment. Education of service personnel is also key to controlling this insect.

The proposed legislation concerned with reconditioned mattresses will have a positive affect on reducing bed bug infestation in the city since a primary bed bug reservoir will be dealt with, but much more will have to be done via creation of the Bed Bug Task Force in order to control the spread of this insect in New York City. The Task Force must integrate many disciplines and agencies within the city to tackle the bed bug problem. Cooperation must be mandatory between landlords, managing agents, renters, coop and condo owners, pest management and sanitation personnel not to mention hospitals, nursing and rehabilitation facilities, but also hotel staff and the tourist industry if bed bugs are to be controlled. If people don't work together the bed bug problem will not go away but will snowball. A search of the internet already provides hundreds of bed bug sites for information, but some of the information is not always true, or may be tweaked to sell a control product that may not be legal for application in New York State, may not actually be efficacious, or may be dangerous to use by the homeowner. Some sites are relying on people's fear and apprehension in order to sell product. An integrated pest management strategy must be followed. Intro 57, 872, 873-A and Res 1414 must be passed if bed bug control is going to work in New York City. They can be amended as required. Bed bug education in our city will have to be multifaceted and on a multilingual level to convey the information to everyone. Bed bug task forces are already underway in other cities and countries to combat *Cimex lectularius* infestations and New York City needs to follow suite. Since many of the aforementioned task forces have been successful, the wheel doesn't have to be reinvented here and we can build on good foundations.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis N. Sorkin B.C.E.", written in a cursive style.

Louis N. Sorkin, B.C.E., Consulting Entomologist



Written Statement of Ryan Trainer Before
The New York City Council
Committees on Consumer Affairs, Health and Sanitation
February 24, 2009

Good afternoon Members of the Committees on Consumer Affairs, Health and Sanitation. I am Ryan Trainer, the Executive Vice President and General Counsel of the International Sleep Products Association (ISPA), the trade association for the mattress industry.

I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the proposals under consideration today.

The U.S. mattress industry supports Introduction Numbers 57 and 872, and Proposed Introduction Number 873-A. We believe that these measures will both help address the bedbug infestation problem, and discourage unscrupulous commercial practices by mattress retailers that deceive consumers into thinking they are buying a new product when they are not. We also support formation of a Bed Bug Task Force and are prepared to work with that group in examining the health impact of bed bugs.

Since its inception over 90 years ago, my organization has been a strong proponent of state and local efforts to regulate the sale of reconditioned mattresses. In addition to the bed bug problems that these bills target, recondition mattress can pose other health and safety risks. For example, reconditioned mattresses often harbor dust mites and their droppings. Dust mites are small organisms that can live off the dead skin cells that we shed as we sleep. Some consumers are allergic to the dust mite droppings, and exposure to them can trigger asthma attacks in children and adults.

Furthermore, reconditioned mattresses can also pose safety risks. New federal safety rules require that all mattresses manufactured for sale in the United States resist ignition from an "open-flame" heat source, such as a match, lighter or candle. The new rules are intended to avoid the tragic fires that can occur when children play with lighters in their bedrooms or a lit candle ignites a bed.

The new rules apply to both new mattresses and reconditioned mattresses. Yet few reconditioners can meet the demanding design and manufacturing quality controls that the new rules set. As a result, many reconditioners endanger public safety by selling reconditioned mattresses that violate the new flammability standards, needlessly putting families at risk.

For these reasons, the mattress industry believes that the legislation under consideration today will benefit consumer health and safety, as well as discourage deceptive sales practices.

In addition to supporting this bill's proposed ban on reconditioned mattresses, the mattress industry supports formation of a task force to study the health effects of bed bugs. We would be glad to contribute our knowledge and expertise to this process to the extent that would be helpful.

As you consider this legislation, I would urge you to consider modifying your definition of "reconditioned mattresses," as I can foresee ways that some reconditioners might try to argue that they are outside the scope of this definition. I suggest that you to adopt a definition that tracks the definition used by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission for reconditioned mattresses. This would minimize the likelihood that these definitions would be interpreted differently.

For the Committees' convenience, I have set forth the amended wording that we propose at the end of my written remarks.

I have one last suggestion to offer. In addition to banning the sale of reconditioned mattresses and studying the health impact of bed bugs, I would urge these Committees to go one step further and look at how New York might be able to dismantle and recycle the used steel and other materials contained in used mattresses. Each year, millions of tons of steel and other recyclable mattress materials are buried in landfills.

As part of a sustainability initiative being pursued by the mattress industry, my organization is actively working with a growing number of recycling centers that are processing used mattress components. At present, I am unaware of any such facility serving the New York metro area. Therefore, I would urge the City Council to investigate how New York can recycle the steel and other mattress materials that will otherwise be wasted when used mattresses are landfilled. I would also be glad to participate with any task force that you might create for this purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this Committee. I would be glad to answer questions.

Proposed Changes to Int. No. 57, Section 20-699.7

20-699.7 Definitions. "~~Reconditioned mattress~~" shall mean ~~any fabric case filled with cotton, hair, feathers, foam rubber, water, an arrangement of coiled springs or otherwise, used either alone as a bed or on a bedstead that had been previously sold as new and subsequently restored to good condition for the purpose of resale.~~ an existing product made from resilient material or combination of materials enclosed by a ticking (used alone or in combination with other products) intended or promoted for sleeping upon that has been used and is subsequently altered for the purpose of resale by means of any one, or any combination of the following: replacing the ticking or batting, stripping a mattress to its springs, rebuilding a mattress, or replacing components with new or recycled materials.

Comments to the New York City Council hearing on three bills pertaining to bed bugs.
February 24, 2009

Jody Gangloff-Kaufmann, Ph.D.

NY State Community IPM Program, Cornell University

My name is Jody Gangloff-Kaufmann. I'm an entomologist and have been working with the NY State Integrated Pest Management Program (part of Cornell University) as a community pest specialist for nearly ten years. Bed bugs have been an issue since I began this work in 1999 and the problems and challenges and the numbers of calls and cases I get are increasing every year. It shows no signs of slowing.

I worked with the NYC DOHMH and the Department of Homeless Services to develop a publication titled "Guidelines for Prevention and Management of Bed Bugs in Shelters and Group Homes" and I have been intimately involved with New York City and bed bug issues for many years. I am overwhelmingly pleased to see the city council, Gale Brewer and all who support these bills, taking a proactive approach to bed bugs. It is a very positive step. My comments on the proposed legislation are as follows.

Int. 873-2008

Bed Bug Education Training Program

It is my opinion that for the NYC DOHMH to focus on training the pest control industry about bed bug control could be redundant. Due to limited staff and bed bug expertise, the health department will be required to outsource training responsibilities to experts in the pest control industry and universities. However, the pest control industry already receives training from these experts through their own continuing education and recertification requirements for being licensed. A better use of the limited city resources is to focus training to landlords, property managers, superintendents, and tenants because more than half of what needs to happen in bed bug control is non-chemical. This includes, cleaning, removing cluttered belongings, laundering linens and clothes, and disinfecting the many household items that may have bed bugs. There is also the problem of reinfestation (bed bugs are brought back into the home after treatment) which is compounded by the challenge of gaining access to neighboring apartments. In many cases, a neighboring apartment was the source of bed bugs, and the landlord could not get access to treat. There needs to be a mechanism to gain access to an infested apartment.

There need to be laws in place that outline the roles of landlords and tenants with regard to bed bugs and prevent abuses, such as eviction of tenants because of bed bugs.

Int. 57-2006

The Sale of Reconditioned Mattresses

Banning the sale of reconditioned mattresses will be an inadequate move to combat bed bugs. Although it is believed that reconditioned mattresses harbor bed bugs and other filth, banning only the sale of them in New York City does not address the industry of actually reconditioning mattresses. There are numbers of warehouses in NYC where mattresses are reconditioned. What's to ban the sale of them in New Jersey or Nassau County, only to be brought back into NYC? This law as stated would be simple to avert, and since the reconditioned mattress industry is valuable in NYC, these activities will continue. The NY State Department of State recently sent for comment some guidelines for sanitizing and reconditioning mattresses, perhaps as a response to bed bugs. I believe these regulations MUST be developed using scientific parameters to ensure that all organisms (bed bugs, fungi, etc..) are eliminated. These regulations then must be enforced. This is a more feasible approach than banning an entire industry, especially in the tough economic times we face today.

The section of this bill that provides for the creation of a task force to study the health concerns of bed bugs is flawed. A task force to study health concerns should have at least one medical professional if not several, who are knowledgeable about arthropods and public health. However, for New York City to focus only on the health concerns of bed bugs (which the EPA and WHO are allegedly doing) is missing the picture. New York City should have a complete task force that includes sub-groups that focus on the many challenges bed bugs create. Challenges include: physical and mental health of sufferers, landlord-tenant disputes and legal issues, public education, economic damages of bed bugs, and more. The City of Toronto has established a Bed Bug Steering Committee with seven working groups that address education and outreach, public messaging, legislative review, health issues, tracking and monitoring, bed bug control issues, and community based response. A comprehensive and cooperative task force for NYC is desperately needed and if created, there should be a small amount of funding to support their work. The Task Force should include (but not be limited to) representatives from city agencies, community groups, scientists, medical professionals, and pest management professionals.

Int. No. 872-2008

Bed Bug Bag Labeling

While I believe that placing stickers on discarded items on the street warning of possible bed bugs helps prevent the spread of bed bugs, I don't see how the bag distribution idea is feasible in NYC. Bags are expensive, distributing them would be expensive, and simply bagging items on the street doesn't prevent the spread of bed bugs. Encouraging people to throw away their beds and furniture is not an ideal approach to bed bug control. Instead the city should devote those resources to offering mattress encasements (free or subsidized cost) and education (instructions, for example) on how to clean and disinfest furniture, which is preferable to discarding, essential to bed bug control, and also prevents the spread of bed bugs.

Richard Cooper's written testimony NYC Public Hearing on Int. 57, 872 & 873A

Good Afternoon. My name is Richard Cooper. I am an urban entomologist and a nationally recognized bed bug expert. The purpose of my testimony is to make myself available to the City of New York for as resource to provide technical input relative to the proposed legislation. You are probably aware, that a Federal initiative on bed bugs was recently announced by the EPA in order to better understand many of the same issues that the city of New York is proposing a task force to address. I was flattered and humbly accepted an invitation from the EPA to participate in their initiative. Certainly it is important that any legislation dealing with bed bugs in complex cities the likes of New York, be based on sound science and incorporate the most current scientific research available.

I am going to limit my comments regarding these bills and keep my testimony brief. I would like to applaud the sponsors of the bill(s) for recognizing the severity of the bed bug problem. However, with the exception of one proposed item within Introduced Bill No. 57, I do not feel the proposed legislation will have much overall impact on controlling bedbugs. I would like to explain why.

First, although the sale of reconditioned and/or used mattresses are certainly one possible source of a bed bug infestation, reconditioned mattresses are not considered among the most important avenues by which bed bugs are introduced.

Second, while I personally cannot imagine purchasing a reconditioned mattress, there are many people in our society that rely on their availability of affordable bedding. Banning the sale of reconditioned mattresses does not seem justified given the fact that there are many other avenues that play a greater role in the dispersal and subsequent introduction of bed bugs. For example, travel and lodging, the acquisition of used or second hand furniture or the movement of bed bugs between units in multi-occupancy settings.

And third, I agree that the current procedures for reconditioning of mattresses and box springs are inadequate to address the threat that bed bugs present. However, I believe these issues can be addressed by introducing more stringent regulations governing the procedures for reconditioning of bedding prior to resale thus achieving the same end result without closing down an entire industry and eliminating affordable bedding for individuals on a limited income..

The portion of Int. No. 57 I would like to support is the following:

I fully support the creation of a New York City bed bug task force utilizing scientists and various appropriate city agency experts. Such a task force would be highly effective for developing sound recommendations and proposing possible future legislation.

While I appreciate the intent of the proposed legislation as presented in Int. 872 and 873-A, I feel that the proposed issues and perhaps related subjects would be better served as issues to be evaluated by the bed bug task force. Additionally, the accomplishments of a New York City Bed Bug Task Force, could very likely result in the development of templates from which other states and their cities in the United States suffering from the bedbug resurgences would benefit.

I would like to conclude here by thanking the City Council for your consideration of my comments and my offer to serve as a technical resource to The City of New York at any time.

Sincerely,

Richard Cooper, Entomologist MS

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL TESTIMONY

February 24, 2009

Good day, my name is Gil Bloom, I am a certified entomologist and testify before you today as I did at the 2006 hearing on behalf of the New York State Pest Management Association, as vice president of an eighty year old New York City pest control icon Standard Pest Management and as a concerned New Yorker. I personally have been involved with the current bed bug outbreak since 1999. During that time I have implemented service protocols and have been involved in treatment as well as the dissemination of bed bug information to many groups and social service agencies. Most recently I served on the advisory committee for the "*Guidelines for Prevention and Management of Bed Bugs in Shelters and Group Living Facilities*" produced by Cornell University IPM Program and NY City agencies. My comments then are as follows;

Intro 57

It is certain that a number of bed bug cases have been spread through the introduction of pre owned /recycled mattresses, along with other furniture into a dwelling so it would logically follow that a ban on improperly refurbished and used mattresses would reduce some of these cases. However, it is unlikely that a local ban limited to used and refurbished mattresses alone would ensure a significant reduction as underground distribution would likely increase, other items may also introduce bed bugs and the fact remains that there is a real need by some New Yorkers for inexpensive mattresses. What would be more comprehensive would be legislation to mandate the NY State Licensing Division to enact statewide regulation and enforcement in regard to the proper sanitizing of mattresses utilizing current data to prevent the spread of bed bugs and other organisms.

With regard to the establishment of a Bed Bug Task Force, we not only support this endeavor but would offer our assistance to it in the hopes of improving the quality of life for many New Yorkers and a reduction in the hardship to property owners, tenants and all others who suffer as a result of these vampires of the night.

Intro 872

In a control scenario, anything that can be done to remove bed bug infested items from the interior of a premise as quickly as possible would be of assistance in reducing the spread of bed bugs in that structure. Additionally having a uniformly accepted bed bug precautionary sign could reduce the potential of infested items from being picked up on the street by others and then moved into and subsequently infesting additional structures.

Intro 873

One of the key elements needed to successfully confront the current bed bug situation is education of the public. In that regard we support an increased public education and awareness effort by the Department of Health. Conversely in regard to the development of pest specific protocols, pesticide recommendations and the training of NY State Certified Applicators and Technicians in the most modern and efficacious methods of treatment for *Cimex lectularius*, it is our opinion at this time that the department has neither the resources nor expertise in this matter and additionally that this matter falls under the jurisdiction of the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation. Our concern is that in the constantly evolving world of bed bug research and control that if this part of Intro 873 would be enacted that we in NYC would be stymied by what would quickly become outdated recommendations, protocols and an inability to train hundreds of applicators in a timely manner.

At this point I thank you for your time and wish you wisdom in dealing with the bigger bed bug picture before us all.



**REGARDING LEGISLATION AIMED AT AVOIDING THE SPREAD OF
BEDBUG INFESTATION OF MATTRESSES
BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES ON HEALTH,
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND SANITATION**

Testimony of Limas Forte on behalf of WE ACT for Environmental Justice
February 24, 2009

My name is Limas Forte, and I am the healthy homes manager for WE ACT for Environmental Justice. I thank the Speaker, the Committee Chairpersons, and Members of the City Council for addressing the very serious public health problem that bedbugs have become in our City. We support the proposed measures, and we think more should be done to stem the tide of the current infestation.

For over 20 years, WE ACT fought to bring about systemic change that ensures improvement in the environment and health of low-income people of color. Consistent with our belief that the environment everything that surrounds us, where we live, work, pray, and play, WE ACT has worked with communities and public officials citywide to win better housing for New York City residents. Over the years, we have made progress on critical housing health issues such as curtailing household lead exposure and safe and effective mold remediation rules.

We come before the Council today to discuss our concerns over the rising bedbug epidemic in our communities. Much more serious than a cautionary children's rhyme, bedbug infestations have become a matter of public health for environmental justice communities such as ours in Northern Manhattan. In the past five years, the number of bed bug-related housing complaints have increased by more than 4,600 times – and that only accounts for the cases serious enough for residents to file formal reports.¹ Central (346 – up 28.6% from 2007) and West Harlem (342 – up 58.6% from 2007) as well as Washington Heights (499 – a 36% increase over 2007) are among the epicenters of the bedbug outbreak.² It will come as no surprise to many council members that many of the low-income residents in our communities are among the top consumers of used furniture such as mattress and bed frames, the preferred habitats of bedbugs and the targets of the bills before you today.

Although they do not harbor or transmit infectious disease agents, bed bugs are nevertheless a major public and environmental health concern. Repeated exposure to bed bug bites causes victims to become sensitized to the bed bug's saliva so that subsequent bites could result in mild to intense allergic responses, which include persistent welts, itchiness, and swelling and their accompanying pain and suffering. Because the skin lesion produced by the bite of a bed bug resembles those caused by many other kinds of blood

¹ From 2003-2005 according to statistics reported by 311 Call Center and the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD).

² Statistics from 311 Call Center and the HPD.



feeding insects, such as mosquitoes and fleas, many sufferers often must deal with great confusion before they realize they have bed bugs. Finally, the social stigma of having open sores on their bodies and the frustration of endlessly fruitless battles against the insects can deteriorate the mental health of bedbug sufferers and their families.

We fully support Intro-873's requirement that the Department of Health develop a training program that would provide appropriate training for bed bug exterminators on effective techniques to treat bedbug infestations. We urge the developer of any such training to promote Integrative Pest Management (IPM) protocols and to emphasize that because of their toxicity to humans, particularly the very young, elderly, and infirmed, that pesticide use should be an action of last resort.

We also support Intro 872's requirement that disposal of used mattresses and furniture with known bed bug infestations must be packaged in a City-issued bag with appropriate warning labels in order to avoid would-be recyclers' unwitting reuse of infested material. Even though Intro 872's containment provisions are a good start to limiting the bed bug epidemic, for the following reasons, we think that they are not enough and recommend that the Council and the Department of Health continue to be vigilant in developing new and innovative methods to curtail the spread of bed bugs. First, bed bug infestations are associated, rightly or wrongly, with poor hygiene and housekeeping habits. Therefore, owners of infested furniture are unlikely to comply with the labeling rule. Second, mattress resellers often do not acquire used mattress through the normal channels of commerce but instead scavenge for them in the streets and residential building dumpsters. Because they would not be sleeping on the material themselves (or perhaps because they are ignorant of the extent of damage bed bugs can cause), such resellers are unlikely to heed the warning labels and leave the infested material; more likely, they would think that their method of reconditioning would be effective at either hiding an infestation or getting rid of it altogether. Neither does Intro 873 cover used mattresses acquired disposed outside New York City, such as those obtained from nearby Nassau and Westchester counties or New Jersey. Third, even if infested materials are properly packaged, they may come into contact with inappropriately packaged infested furniture and become infested. The upshot is that in any of the above scenarios, the end product is that unwitting new users would not be aware of bed bug infested materials and acquire the infestation in their own homes. Therefore, we cannot allow one measure of containment to make us complacent about bed bug control in the City.

Although we support Intro-57 in spirit, WE ACT has major concerns about a ban on the sale of reconditioned mattresses. We like to point out to the Council that those who purchase reconditioned mattresses do not do so because they like the idea of sleeping on a used mattress; they are forced to buy used because they cannot afford new mattresses. Therefore, a ban on the sale of reconditioned mattresses will at best cut off a source of relatively cheap bedding material for the very poor; at worst, it could drive the market for such goods underground and essentially de-regulate the trade. Without an affordable source of mattresses, low-income consumers could be forced to look to charities that may distribute used mattresses at no cost; Intro 57 makes no mention of reconditioned



mattresses not offered for sale but distributed as donations. Even when residents are unable acquire mattresses through purchases or donations, they could nevertheless continue to be exposed to bed bug bites because many would simply move their beddings to the floor (or onto inflatable mattresses that are also placed on the floor) where bed bugs can get to their bodies even more easily. In any event, the bed bug problem remains unsolved and residents continue to be subjected to the pain and suffering of the infestation.

We propose City leaders work with the state to strengthen state regulations regarding bedbug eradication during mattress reconditioning and to bolster enforcement of those regulations. Such an action would allow low-income residents to retain the option to obtaining affordable mattresses that are properly treated against bed bugs and other potential health problems. Additionally, properly treating used mattresses and furnishings against bed bugs would be consistent with the City's sustainability initiatives by reducing the volume of waste going to landfills and incinerators – or other waste disposal facilities.

WE ACT is grateful to have this opportunity to comment on this very important suite of legislation. We stand ready to assist the Council in whatever way necessary to protect the public health of New York City residents, particularly those from low-income communities of color.

Curriculum Vitae
RICHARD COOPER
MS ENTOMOLOGIST, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR,
COOPER PEST SOLUTIONS
(609) 799-1300

Richard Cooper, Technical Director for Cooper Pest Solutions, earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Entomology at the University of Delaware. Richard enhanced his knowledge of insects working as a Field and Lab Technician for the USDA Beneficial Insect Laboratories in the biological control of Gypsy Moths. Richard spent a short time with E. I. DuPont conducting field testing of insecticides, herbicides and fungicides. Richard continued his education, receiving a research Masters Degree in Entomology at Rutgers University.

Richard regularly participates in national seminars focusing on insects, their behavior, biology and control and is a frequently invited speaker at industry meetings. In addition to his responsibilities at Cooper Pest Solutions, Richard also consults with other pest control companies on a variety of pest issues in both commercial and residential settings. Richard is very active in ongoing field research with a numerous manufacturers assisting in the field component of product development as well as the evaluation of product efficacy. In addition to numerous articles in industry trade journals, he has also authored chapters in the 8th and 9th editions of the Mallis Handbook of Pest Control. In 2001 Richard received PCT Magazines distinguished leadership award and in 2003 was recognized as one of the top 40 professionals in the pest control industry under the age of 40 years old.

During the past several years Richard has become recognized as one of the countries leading experts on the subject of bed bugs and bed bug management. Richard has taken the lead in dealing with this very serious re-emerging pest. In 2004 Richard edited the Bed Bug Chapter in the pest management industry's most well respected textbook reference, The Mallis Handbook of Pest Control 9th Edition. Richard has been featured as an expert on bed bugs on NBC Dateline, the Discovery Channel CBS's The Early Show, NBC's Today Show and has been a repeat guest on National Public Radio (NPR).

In 2004 Richard was an invited speaker at the National Urban Entomology Meeting and in 2005 was invited to participate in the first bed bug symposium at the Entomological Society of America's annual meeting. Richard has been consulted as an expert for court cases dealing with bed bug litigation and has been frequently cited as an expert in numerous newspaper articles to include the NY Times, USA Today. In 2007 Richard teamed up with Industry consultants, Pinto & Associates in 2007 to publish the "Bed Bug Handbook: the complete guide to bed bugs and their control." Richard speaks to audiences throughout the United States educating the pest control industry as well as a number of other industries and government agencies on the subject of bed bugs. Currently, Richard is working with the US EPA as an advisor regarding the EPA Bed Bug Initiative launched in 2009.

Richard has served on several National Pest Management Association technical committees and currently serves on the Quality Pro committee. In addition, Richard served on the New Jersey IPM Task Force which developed IPM standards for the State of New Jersey. Richard participates in a number of organizations to include the Entomological Society of America, Pi Chi Omega, the New Jersey Environmental Federation as well as a number of other professional organizations including a position in the Board of Directors for Pennsylvania Pest Management Association.

Curriculum Vitae: Richard Cooper

Richard A. Cooper, Technical Director

Cooper Pest Solutions
351 Lawrence Station Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
(609) 799-1300

Professional Experience

1986 to 1989 and 1991 to Present
Cooper Pest Solutions
Lawrenceville, New Jersey
Technical Director
Staff Entomologist: Responsible for all technical aspects of operations at Cooper Pest Solutions.

Conducts training programs for staff members and pest control industry.

Develops new technologies for use in Pest Control Industry and within Cooper Pest Solutions. Emphasis is placed on developing and implementing technologies that reduce or eliminate exposure of pesticides to persons and animals.

Consultant working in Pest Control issues for Commercial and Residential clients

Consultant working with Chemical Manufacturers in Efficacy Research for both EPA Registered and non-registered Products. Specializing in field efficacy research on Cockroach and Ant Baits

1985
E. I. DuPont Inc.
Elkton, Delaware
Field Technician. Field studies on field efficacy of insecticides, herbicides and fungicides.

1983 to 1984
USDA - Beneficial Insects Research Laboratory
Newark, Delaware
Field and Lab Technician. Field studies on biological control of gypsy moths.

Education

1986 to 1991
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey
Masters of Science in Entomology
Thesis: "Effect of Feeding and Nutrition on the Development and Reproductive Physiology of German Cockroaches."

1982 to 1986
University of Delaware
Newark, Delaware
Bachelors of Science in Entomology

Organizations

- **Board of Directors Pennsylvania Pest Management Association (Eastern Div)**
- **New Jersey Pest Control Association**
- **National Pest Control Association**
- **Associated Pest Services**
- **Entomological Society of America**
- **Pi Chi Omega (Honorary Entomologist Society for Urban Entomologists)**
- **New Jersey Environmental Federation**

Pesticide Applicators Licenses

- **New Jersey Categories 7A, 7B, 7D, 11 (Research and Demonstration)**
- **Pennsylvania Categories 11, 12**

Recent Grants

- 2008:** The evaluation of the effectiveness of liquid residual pesticides for use in bed bug management programs. NPMA Pest Management Foundation. \$15,000
- 2008.** Cooperating with NC State University. Determination of Sources of Infestation and Patterns of Dispersal of Bed Bugs in Urban and Agricultural Environments. USDA National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program, Primary Investigator Edward Vargo, NC State
- 2006:** Serving on Advisory Board. A Partnership for Developing IPM Protocols for Bed Bug Management. USDA Northeast IPM Partnership Grant. Primary Investigator, Jody Gangloff-Kaufmann, Cornell University.

Publications

- **2008. "Bed Bug: Not New Anymore, Getting Out In Front of the Problem" Apartment Industry Magazine (AIM) April-May**
- **2008 Bed Bug Handbook- The Complete Guide to Bed Bugs and Their Control L.J. Pinto, R. Cooper, & S.K. Kraft. Pinto & Associates 266 pages**
- **2007. "Four-Legged Detectives." Pest Control Magazine, August.**
- **2007. "Don't Let the Bed Bugs Bite Your Business" Progressive Rentals Magazine August-September**
- **2007. "Bed Bugs and Developing Your Strategy" Apartment Industry Magazine (AIM) April-May**
- **2007. "To Inspect or Not to Inspect That is the Question" Apartment Industry Magazine (AIM) June-July**
- **2007. "Just Encase: Mattress and box spring encasements can serve as an essential tool in effective bed bug management" Pest Control Magazine, April.**
- **2007. "Are Bed Bug Dogs Up To Snuff?" Pest Control Magazine, January.**
- **2007. "Bed Bugs What You Need to Know." New Jersey Property Owners Association March**
- **2006. Hospitality Law Newsletter Commentary on "Guests Bed Bug Claim Goes to Trial" July**
- **Cooper R. A. H. Harlan 1997. Bed Bugs & Kissing Bugs. Mallis Handbook of Pest Control Ninth ed. Chapter 8. pp. 495-527**

Publications (continued)

- Cooper R. A. 1999. IPM: Have we Created a Monster. PCT Magazine October Issue pp. 42-50
- Cooper R. A. 1997. Earwigs. Mallis Handbook of Pest Control Eighth ed. Chapter 5. pp. 220-231.
- Cooper R. A., & D. Guarino, 1996. Integrated Pest Management, Science Alliance Teaching Module. Somerset/Hunterdon Business & Education Partnership. Pp 1-65.
- Shaheen L. & R. A. Cooper, 1995. Real World IPM. Pest Control Mag., Eastern Conf. Show Guide.
- Cooper, R. A. & C. Schal, 1992. Differential development and reproduction of the German cockroach (Dictyoptera: Blattellidae) on three laboratory diets. J. Econ. Entomol. 85(3): 838-884.
- Cooper, R. A. & C. Schal, 1992. Effects of protein type and concentration on development and reproduction of the German cockroach, *Blattella germanica*. Entomol. exp. appl. 63: 123-134.
- Steltenkamp, R. J., R. L. Hamilton., R. A. Cooper., C. Schal. 1992. Alkyl and Aryl Neoalkanamides: Highly Effective Insect Repellents. Journal Medical Entomol. 29(2) 141-149
- Hamilton, R. L., R. A. Cooper & C. Schal, 1990. The influence of nymphal and adult dietary protein on food intake and reproduction in female brown banded cockroaches. Entomol. exp. appl. 55: 23-31.

Public Speaking

- EPA Bed Bug Initiative: Invited Speaker on Expert Panel – Washington DC 2009
- Associated Pest Service, Ft. Lauderdale Florida: Bed Bug Updates January 2009
- Maryland Interstate Pest Control Conference: Bed Bug Research Updates January 2009
- New England Pest Management: Bed Bugs: Everything you need to know, Boston October 2009
- Arkansas Pest Management Meeting- Bed Bugs September of 2008
- Tri Agency Meeting - EPA, State Regulators & Cooperative Extension September 2008
- National Bed Bug Seminar Series with Dr.. Michael Potter (U of K) & Christian Hardigree (UNLV): San Francisco, Atlanta & Washington DC Seminar series July & August 2008
- New Jersey Apartment Association Annual Education Meeting Bed Bugs May 2008
- Minnesota Pest Management Meeting: Bed Bugs Bed Bugs and Carpenter Ants - March 2008
- Michigan State Pest Management Meeting: Bed Bugs February 2008
- Purdue Pest Control Conference: Bed Bugs January 2008
- North Carolina Pest Management Association: Bed Bugs January 2008
- Entomological Society of America: Annual Meeting, San Diego: Non Chemical Advancements in the Control of Bed Bugs – the use of encasements Dec 2007
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension – Public Health & Pest Control Operators Meeting – Bed Bugs November 2007
- Association of Professional Rental Organizations- National Meeting Reno Nevada: Bed Bugs September 2007

Richard A. Cooper (Public Speaking continued)

- **National Bed Bug Seminar Series with Dr. Michael Potter (U of K) & Christian Hardigree (UNLV): NYC & Las Vegas August & September 2007**
- **NJ Pest Management Association Annual Education Clinic – Bed Bugs- Things that may not be readily apparent. August 2007**
- **National Environmental Health Association Annual Meeting: Bed Bugs June 2007**
- **NJ Apartment Association: Bed Bug Workshop – Bed Bugs: What you need to know but may wish you never heard. July 2007**
- **Family Services Association, NJ State Education Meeting Owners of Group Homes, June 2007**
- **NJ Apartment Association Annual Education Meeting: Bed Bugs May 2007**
- **Entomological Society of America Eastern Branch: Bed Bugs March 2007**
- **NJ Property Owners Association (PONJ): Bed Bugs shared presentation with Attorney Timothy Wenk, Shafer Glazer March 2007**
- **Minnesota Pest Management Meeting: Bed Bugs (March 2007)**
- **The Rental Industry Buyers Group (TRIB) Meeting of the Minds in Atlanta, GA Bed Bugs March 2007**
- **NJ Apartment Association: 3 Hour Bed Bug Seminar - Jan 2007**
- **Maryland Interstate Conference Keynote Presentation on Bed Bugs January 2007**
- **North Carolina Pest Management Association: Insect ID for the Non-Entomologist January 2007**
- **Pennsylvania Pest Management Association Annual Meeting: Bed Bugs November 2006**
- **Monmouth County Health Department – Bed Bug Seminar November 2006**
- **Connecticut Apartment Association Annual Meeting: Bed Bugs November 2006**
- **Nova Scotia, Canada Annual Pest Management Conference: Bed Bugs October 2006**
- **University of Kentucky: Pest Management Short Course Bed Bugs October 2006**
- **National Pest Management Association: Bed Bugs (October 2006 National Meeting)**
- **New Jersey Environmental Health (NJEH): Bed Bugs (September 2006 Annual Meeting)**
- **Pod Cast Interview: Response to University of Kentucky news release on Pesticide Resistance in Bed Bugs; Pest Control Magazine September 2006**
- **Rutgers Extension Entomology – Bed Bugs & IPM June 2006**
- **National Public Radio, The Leonard Lopate Show: Bed Bugs – New York City 2006**
- **National Pest Management Association: Bed Bug Expert Panel, Jan 2006**
- **Purdue University: Bed Bugs: Complicated Situations Jan 2006**
- **Northeast Integrated Pest Management Meeting Boxborough, MA 2006**
- **Pennsylvania Pest Management Annual Meeting: Bed Bug Management November 2005**
- **Entomological Society of America: Bed Bug Symposia Ft. Lauderdale, FL Dec 2005**
- **New Jersey Environmental Health Annual Meeting Bed Bugs & IPM 2005**

Richard A. Cooper (Public Speaking continued)

- **National Pest Management: Newark, NJ Bed Bug Workshop 2005**
- **National Pest Management Association: Expert Panel on Bed Bugs 2005**
- **Entomological Society of America Eastern Branch: Beyond Fear Factor Symposia 2005**
- **Maine Department of Agriculture: Bed Bugs, IPM in Schools & Commercial Structures 2005**
- **British Columbia Pest Management Conference: Carpenter Ants- An exterior Approach & Pest Identification for the Non Entomologist 2005**
- **Wisconsin Pest Management Conference: Cockroach Management & Insect ID 2005**
- **Minnesota Pest Management Meeting: Carpenter Ant – Exterior Approach**
- **New Jersey Environmental Federation & NJDEP: School IPM Training Outreach Presentations 2005**
- **Pennsylvania Pest Management Association's Annual Meeting: Structurally Invading Ants 2005**
- **National Urban Entomology Meeting Phoenix, AZ: Bed Bug Presentation 2004**
- **Ant Management Summit, Atlanta, GA 2004**
- **Audubon Society/Sierra Club: Bed Bugs and other emerging pest issues 2003**
- **University of Kentucky Short Course, Lexington KY 2003**
- **National Pest Management Meeting, Orlando Florida 2002**
- **Aventis/Pest Control Technology Tick Control Symposium, Jacksonville Florida -2002**
- **Aventis/Pest Control Technology Ant Symposium, Phoenix Arizona -2001**
- **Pennsylvania Pest Control Assoc. 2001**
- **University of Maryland, Interstate Pest Control Conference Univ. of Maryland 2000, 2005**
- **University of California, California Pest Control Association – Univ. Calif. Riverside 1999**
- **Purdue University, Purdue Pest Control - Conference 1999, 2001**
- **Alliance for Environmental Concerns Ann. Meeting (speaker & panel member 1999) Termite Control Technology. Purdue University Lafayette Indiana.**
- **University of Delaware, Delaware Pest Control Assoc. 1991, 1996,.1999, 2004**
- **EPA Region 2 Conference 1998**
- **Rutgers Cook College, Continuing Education 1991, 1992,1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001**
- **Entomological Society of America, Eastern Branch 1998, 2005**
- **National Pest Control Eastern Conference 1995, 2002, 2003, 2004**
- **New Jersey Pest Control Association 1990, 1992, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2004**
- **Associated Pest Control Services 1992, 1995, 1996, 1999, 2002, 2004**
- **New Jersey Environmental Federation Annual Meeting 1995, 1996, 1998**
- **New Jersey Department of Health 1992,1993, 1994, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007**

Miscellaneous

- **2009 EPA Bed Bug Initiative – Invited as an Advisor and Speaker on EPA Panel**
- **2009 Appearance on NPR's Leonard Lopate Show (subject roaches)**
- **2008 Training of State of NJ Codes Enforcement Inspectors – Lodging inspections (Bed Bugs)**
- **2008 Appearance on CBS The Early Show as an expert on bed bugs**
- **2008 Appearance on NBC's The Today Show as an expert on bed bugs**
- **2008 Dateline- Bed Bugs - Reconditioned Mattress Story Aired April 20,2008**
- **2007 National Public Radio, Live Interview on Bed Bugs March 2007**
- **2005 Discovery Channel Bed Bug segment**
- **2004 National Public Radio, Live Interview on Bed Bugs**
- **2003-2006 NPMA Quality Pro Technical Committee**
- **2003 Developed NJ IPM Credentialing Exam**
- **2003 Advisory Committee for National Pest Management Quality Pro Initiative (Establishment of Pest Control Industries version of "Good Seal")**
- **2003 Received the PCT 40 under 40 award. Recognizes leaders in the industry whom are 40 years old or younger**
- **2001 Received Pest Control Technology Leadership Award: Recognized as one of the 10 most influential persons in the Pest Management Industry**
- **2002 Member of the National Pest Control Project Development Council Committee General Pest Control**
- **2001 Member of IPM in Schools committee for National Pest Management Association (Project Development Council).**
- **2001 Invited to attend Scientific Symposium on Termites, Purdue University. The purpose of this conference to set Research Objectives for the future of 2000 Member of planning committee for the International Conference for Urban Pests to be held in 2002**
- **2000 Committee member for National Pest Management Association Project Development Council on IPM in Schools.**
- **1997-98 Chairperson of National Pest Control Project Development Council Committee on Fumigation and New Technologies.**
- **1997 Invited to attend Scientific Symposium on Baiting of Cockroaches and Ants. The purpose of this conference to set Research Objectives for the future of Bait Technology in Roaches and Ants. Purdue University Laffayette Indiana.**
- **1996. Featured in Article appearing in Pest Control Magazine. August Edition. "Program Hits Home Run" Authored by Mike Goldstein. pp 44-46.**
- **1994. Served on State of NJ Governors Task Force for the development of a State Mandated Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy**
- **1994. Featured in Article appearing in Pest Control Magazine. Eastern Conference Edition. "Baiting Technology & Entomology team up to kill Roaches" Authored by Lisa Shaheen. pp 20-21.**
- **1992-1995 involved in numerous volunteer education programs as a speaker or instructor for**

Rotary Clubs, Elementary - High School Science Classes etc.

- **1990-1992 received Headlee Fellowship for Masters Thesis Research on German Cockroaches. Rutgers University, New Brunswick New Jersey**

Testimony of Renee Corea
Cofounder of New York vs Bed Bugs

Before the New York City Council Committees on Health, Consumer Affairs and Sanitation
regarding Int. 57-2006, Int. 872-2008, and Int. 873-2008

February 24, 2009

New York City Council

New York vs Bed Bugs
(646) 417-8168

<http://newyorkvsbedbugs.org/>

Good afternoon. My name is Renee Corea and I am pleased to be here on behalf of New York vs Bed Bugs. New York vs Bed Bugs is a grassroots policy advocacy group formed in March of 2008. The group's members are New Yorkers who have fought, and continue to fight, bed bug infestations.

New York vs Bed Bugs advocates a comprehensive bed bug control plan for our city and we support legislation proposed by Council Member Gale Brewer to create a bed bug task force, ban the sale of reconditioned mattresses, create a Health Department training program and hotline, and provide Department of Sanitation bed bug trash disposal stickers and bags.

The scope of the problem

Bed bug infestations in New York City have steadily increased in recent years, and there is no expectation of abatement. The interesting question is not, how many infestations have been the subject of 311 complaints, but rather, what is the under-reporting rate? How many infestations go unreported to any New York City agency, handled privately by residents and landlords and business and property owners? Anecdotal evidence and some unsophisticated extrapolation from the only known citywide survey, the Cincinnati bed bug survey of 2008, suggest that the under-reporting rate could be above 90%.

Bed bugs are at crisis-levels in various parts of the world. We are told by a knowledgeable urban pest management professional working in the field in London that a 30% infestation rate--the low end of the rates that existed in the pre-World War II period--is not far from reality *at the current pace of the spread*.

The public health interest

What has been overlooked in the national debate about whether bed bugs are a public health concern is that bed bugs are already on the *List of Pests of Significant Public Health Importance*¹ as defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). EPA will hold a bed bug conference in Washington, DC on April 14.

Bed bugs are a public health pest under federal law—they have been since 2002.

In 2008, the World Health Organization publication, *Public Health Significance of Urban Pests*², outlined the challenges to bed bug eradication in multi-unit dwellings:

“Large multi-unit buildings common to poor areas can be very hard to rid of bedbugs. Once bedbugs become established, any control effort that does not include checking the whole building at nearly the same time, along with a coordinated occupant education and treatment effort (as needed), will usually fail, because the bugs will frequently move away from any partially treated and potentially repellent active sites into adjacent rooms. Their movements are generally unencumbered, because they readily move through wall voids and along utility lines, heating ducts, elevator shafts, and laundry and mail chutes.”

The World Health Organization recommended:

“Efforts should be undertaken (or at least planned) by appropriate government agencies to address locally evident problems that relate to the difficulties encountered by poor and low-income people in dealing with bedbugs and their control and with housing or building quality. Community-wide or citywide programmes may be needed and possible, if properly supported and well coordinated.”

¹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Pesticide Registration (PR Notice) Notice 2002-1: List of Pests of Significant Public Health Importance, http://www.epa.gov/PR_Notices/pr2002-1.pdf

² Public Health Significance of Urban Pests, World Health Organization, http://www.euro.who.int/InformationSources/Publications/Catalogue/20080617_9

The policy objectives

The cities of Toronto and Cincinnati established bed bug task forces in 2007 and 2008 that are led by their public health departments.

The Cincinnati/Hamilton County Joint Bed Bug Task Force Strategic Plan³ is the most comprehensive bed bug policy document produced. Toronto's multi-stakeholder task force, named the Toronto Bed Bug Project, already has five pilot projects under way.

We want New York City to form a bed bug task force, with the active participation of entomologists and urban pest management professionals, to tackle the following challenges:

- tracking infestations data;
- a comprehensive public education campaign;
- establishing clear bed bug control and prevention guidelines and policies;
- improving access to pest control services;
- facilitating and monitoring the specialized training of pest control operators and bed bug inspectors;
- implementing sensible mattress and used furniture regulations; and
- establishing bed bug trash protocols.

A task force can identify resources, develop best practices, coordinate data collection and analysis, and marshal all our existing resources to launch an education campaign and help New Yorkers cope with bed bug infestations.

In the most recent Toronto Bed Bug Project report⁴ there was an appropriations request in the amount of 75,000 Canadian dollars to expand Bug and Scrub. Bug and Scrub is a social purpose enterprise that offers services on a sliding scale to prepare resident apartments for bed bug treatments. Bug and Scrub is a model that we should consider fomenting in our own city. We need to devise creative approaches to solve bed bug infestations.

In 2008, New York vs Bed Bugs consulted an urban pest management expert who recommends an epidemiological approach to control this bed bug outbreak. Entomologist Clive Boase identified the components of an eradication strategy as follows: 1) early detection of infestations, 2) access to professional pest control services; 3) access by pest control staff to infested areas; 4) preparation of premises to be treated; 5) treatments that actually eradicate infestation; and 6) follow-up inspections to ensure eradication has actually been achieved.

This is what it will take to eradicate bed bugs from our city. We fully expect it to be a difficult task, one we must begin without delay.

Thank you.

³ Cincinnati/Hamilton County Joint Bed Bug Task Force Strategic Plan, <http://newyorkvsbedbugs.org/the-cincinnati-hamilton-county-joint-bed-bug-task-force-strategic-plan/>

⁴ Toronto Medical Officer of Health's Staff Report on the Toronto Bed Bug Project, <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-17412.pdf>

**NEW
YORK**

**VS
BED
BUGS**

BED BUGS IN NEW YORK CITY
A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO THE PROBLEM

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About New York vs Bed Bugs

New York vs Bed Bugs is a policy advocacy organization formed in New York City in March of 2008. The organization's members are concerned citizens who have fought, and continue to fight, bed bug infestations. Advisers include urban pest management professionals and entomologists.

Bed bugs are a serious quality of life issue. Bed bug infestations exact a heavy physical and emotional toll, burden our families and businesses, diminish our productivity, and make our society poorer.

We believe that the current levels of infestation in our city merit a determination of public health concern and that coordinated action can stop the spread.

A bed bug task force for New York City

Our overarching objective is a comprehensive bed bug control plan for the city. We believe that the best vehicle to achieve this objective is a city-wide bed bug task force—modeled on the bed bug task forces established in cities like Cincinnati and Toronto—that can draw upon the expertise and cooperation of multiple agencies, relevant stakeholders, and urban pest management experts to investigate and devise solutions to specific challenges.

For more information, please visit <http://newyorkvsbedbugs.org/>.

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Bed bugs in New York City

An insect pest like no other

Bed bugs are blood-sucking insects that have been on the rise worldwide for at least the past decade. They can hide in cracks and crevices in furniture or objects in a home as well as in the structure itself, including walls, floors and window sills. Early-stage infestations are very hard to detect even for pest control professionals.

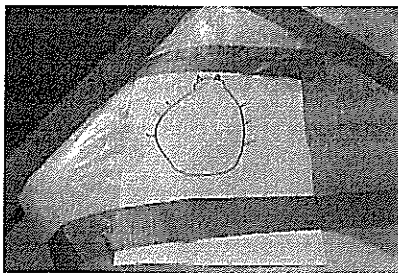
Our society lacks effective and widely-deployable, inexpensive control methods. Cleaning alone is insufficient to control infestations. Pesticides alone are inadequate, especially in light of pesticide resistance in some bed bug populations.

Bed bugs spread easily between floors and apartments in apartment buildings via unsealed walls, plumbing, and electrical and heating conduits.

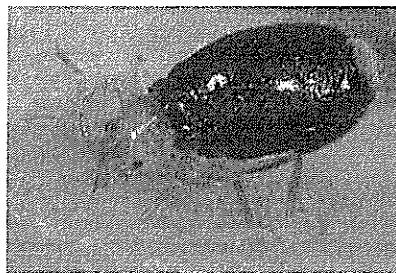
Treating a single infested apartment in a building, or treating apartments serially based solely on complaints, is often an inappropriate strategy that fails to eradicate infestations and stop the spread. Building residents—lacking notice of infestations in the building and lacking awareness of bed bugs—may not detect an infestation that has spread from a treated apartment to an untreated apartment until the infestation is advanced and there are obvious signs. Further complicating detection is the complexity of allergic reactions to bed bug bites; allergic reactions may evolve over time and some people simply may not react to bites at all.¹

Poorly controlled bed bug infestations generate secondary infestations by the active spread of bed bugs to adjoining apartments and spaces and by the passive, accidental transfer of bed bugs to new locations on furniture, clothing and personal effects.

Improperly discarded bed bug-infested furniture and trash also fuel the spread.



DIY bed bug warning on discarded sofa
© mangy_cur



A bed bug nymph gorging on blood
© AMNH Sorkin & Mercurio



A mattress scavenging van
© Ray Lopez

¹ There are no reliable statistics on the number of asymptomatic individuals. Estimates range from 25% to 70%.

A pressing quality of life problem

An indication of the depth of our bed bug problems is that bed bugs have been appearing in public schools, hospitals, offices, theaters, public and private spaces throughout our city, threatening a deterioration in our city's quality of life and reputation.

The expenditures necessary to control infestations burden families and business- and property-owners alike. The costs of eradication may include fees for pest control services that are often not guaranteed and need to be repeated multiple times, replacement of discarded furniture and belongings, long-term storage of untreatable belongings, plastic bags and containers for isolation of clothes and other items, dry cleaning and laundry, and DIY supplementary products. There are also productivity and wage losses due to days missed from work to attend to pre-treatment preparation tasks and to be present for inspections and treatment visits.

They don't spread disease — only misery

Bed bugs cause allergic reactions (sometimes significant reactions, including anaphylaxis), secondary skin infections, sleep deprivation, stress, anxiety, depression, and desperate and unsafe applications of pesticides in efforts to self-treat an infestation. Bronchial asthma and infant anemia have been suggested by studies but more research is needed to establish the risks.

The elderly, disabled and sick face significant challenges in eradicating infestations with conventional preparation and control measures that are invasive and labor-intensive.

Many New Yorkers report feeling socially isolated during an infestation.



© mangy_cur

Bed bug stories

Martin

Location: East Williamsburg

"I first got bed bugs about a year and a half ago. Out of the blue I started waking up itching like crazy and bitten up. After some research and actually finding a bug, I was able to identify the problem. Before I could even call an exterminator, I had to go through everything I owned and seal it in plastic. In order to ensure I didn't accidentally spread these bugs to friends, family and work, I had to try to sanitize everything I owned and seal it in clean plastic. Every morning involved special cleaning of surfaces and bagging and unbagging items, like I was going into a special sanitary chamber for the immune compromised. Every evening was spent vacuuming, organizing, bagging, inspecting and trying to sanitize my belongings. I am still scared to lend a book to a friend or have a friend over to my house. Sometimes I can't go to a friend's house because I can't be sure I have unexposed clothing to wear. I have ruined countless articles of expensive work-related clothing items and have had to practically replace half my work wardrobe. I no longer have a couch. I have had 4 pesticide treatments.

They finally appear to be gone, but I know my neighbors still have them, so everything I own is still in plastic. I just live in a sea of plastic bags, indefinitely."

Enid

Location: Manhattan

"My husband and I are in the midst of a living hell. Our lives are upside down and topsy turvy. We have been hit with the bed bug infestation that is currently an epidemic in NYC. Unless you've been through this you can NOT imagine what this means. I'm on the verge of a nervous breakdown and of course financial ruin. It could not have hit me at a worse time as my work has completely dried up. But that's the least of my concerns right now. For now, we have had to rent a storage room to put a lot of our possessions in (the ones that we could save—we've thrown out thousand of dollars worth of items, clothes, 2 year old expensive mattress and box spring, antique bed frame, linens, pillows and I'm going through everything to get rid of as much clutter as possible and eliminate what I don't absolutely need). We have to do all of this as quickly as possible so they can get in and treat the apartment which is going to be a three week process. We are sleeping on air mattresses. I may never feel secure with another mattress again!

My landlord is going to do the least amount possible. I have major cracks in my walls and floors and he insists that they don't live there and did not come in that way. He is not willing to inspect and treat the other apartments in the building and there are only 7 total. I believe they will just travel back and forth until the whole building is treated."

Margaritte's bed bug bill

Location: Astoria – Duration of Infestation: 4 months

Item	Amount
Landlord: 4 pest control treatments	600
PURCHASES	
3 gal floor paint	165
caulking & foam	40
metal shelves & plastic bins	430
new metal table, side, mirror	170
bed bug cover for mattress	120
washable throw rugs	25
plastic bags / lg zip locks	35
2 men to help me caulk/paint	250
laundry, 4.50 a load, 50	225
new boots	100
metal legged desk	50
new metal bed frame	140
	1,750
LOST ITEMS	
couch	220
rug	200
coffee table	120
bookshelf	120
4 tall cabinets	200
3 chairs	150
armoire	350
approx. 200 books @ av. \$15	3,000
clothes shoes coats	800
blankets comforter	400
	5,560
MY TOTAL	\$7,310
TOTAL WITH LANDLORD'S EXPENSE	\$7,910

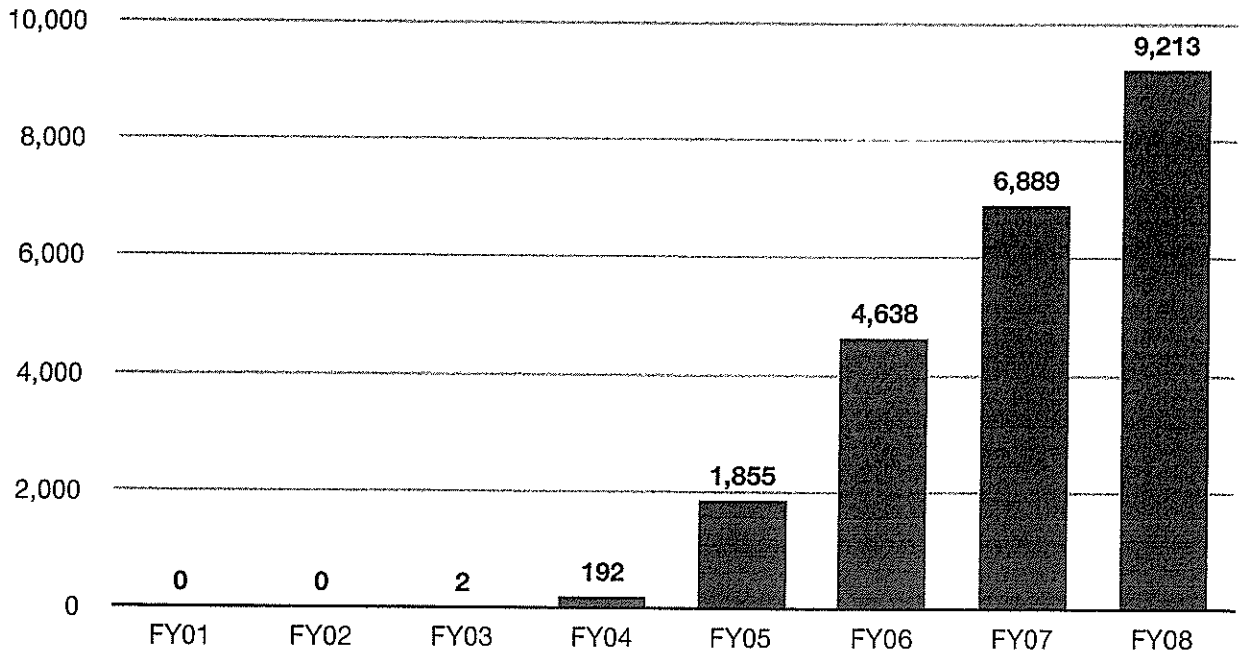
Statistics

The scope of the problem and the available statistics

- 311 processes bed bug complaints by residents of private residential housing seeking a specific remedy: help from the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) to compel their landlords to help them eradicate an infestation. 311 bed bug complaints are the first step in a landlord/tenant adversarial process and are thus only a subset of the total number of bed bug infestations.
- 311 complaints about bed bugs are currently not made available to the public as part of Local Law 47 reports.
- The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and the Department of Education (DOE) track separate bed bug statistics.
- The available statistics from HPD are best viewed as indicators of as yet unknown infestation rates.

The available HPD and NYCHA statistics are analyzed below.

HPD Bed Bug Complaints — 2001-2008

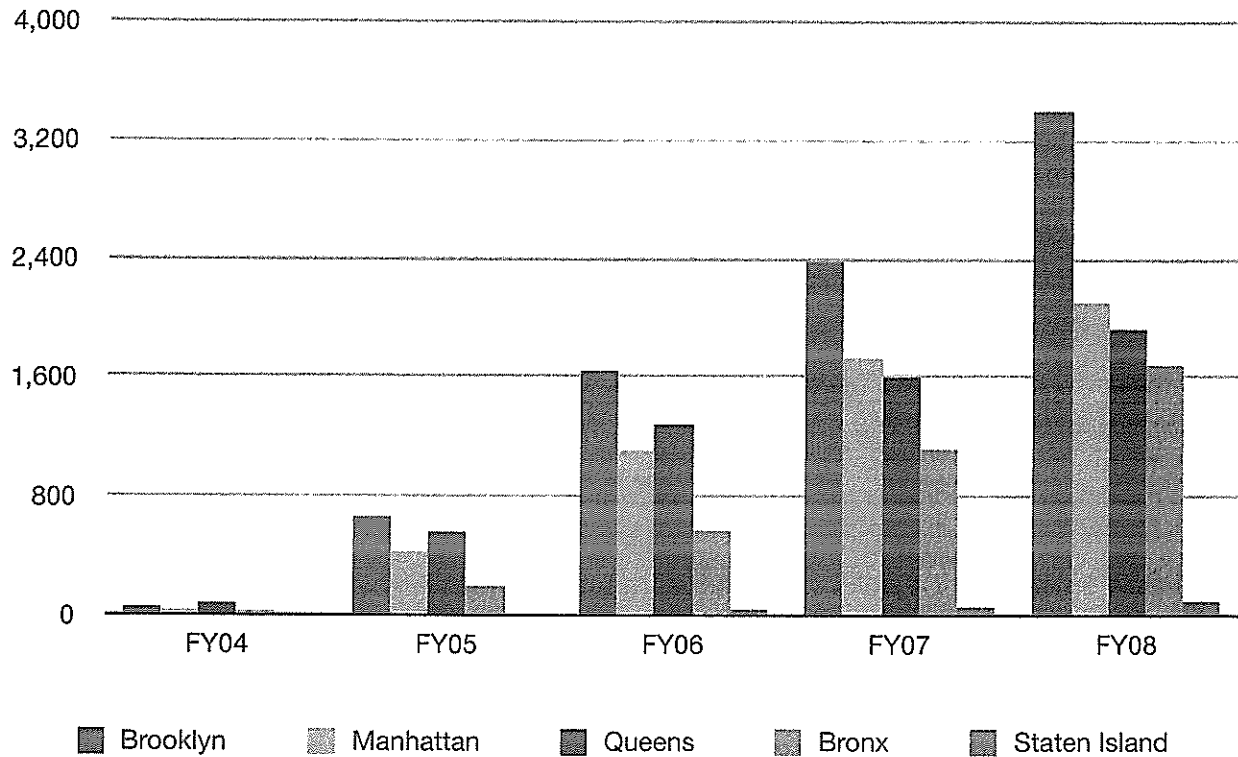


New York vs Bed Bugs

Data source: NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development

Complaints increased 866% from 2004 to 2005, 150% from 2005 to 2006, 48.53% from 2006 to 2007, and 33.73% from 2007 to 2008.

HPD Bed Bug Complaints in the 5 Boroughs – 2004-2008



	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Brooklyn	52	665	1,642	2,382	3,401
Manhattan	35	427	1,107	1,729	2,107
Queens	80	562	1,278	1,602	1,927
Bronx	25	193	570	1,117	1,682
Staten Island	0	8	41	59	96
Total	192	1,855	4,638	6,889	9,213

New York vs Bed Bugs

Data source: NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development

From 2007 to 2008, complaints in Brooklyn increased 42.78%; 21.86% in Manhattan; 20.29% in Queens; 50.58% in the Bronx; and 62.71% in Staten Island.

HPD Bed Bug Complaints and Violations – 2004 to 2008

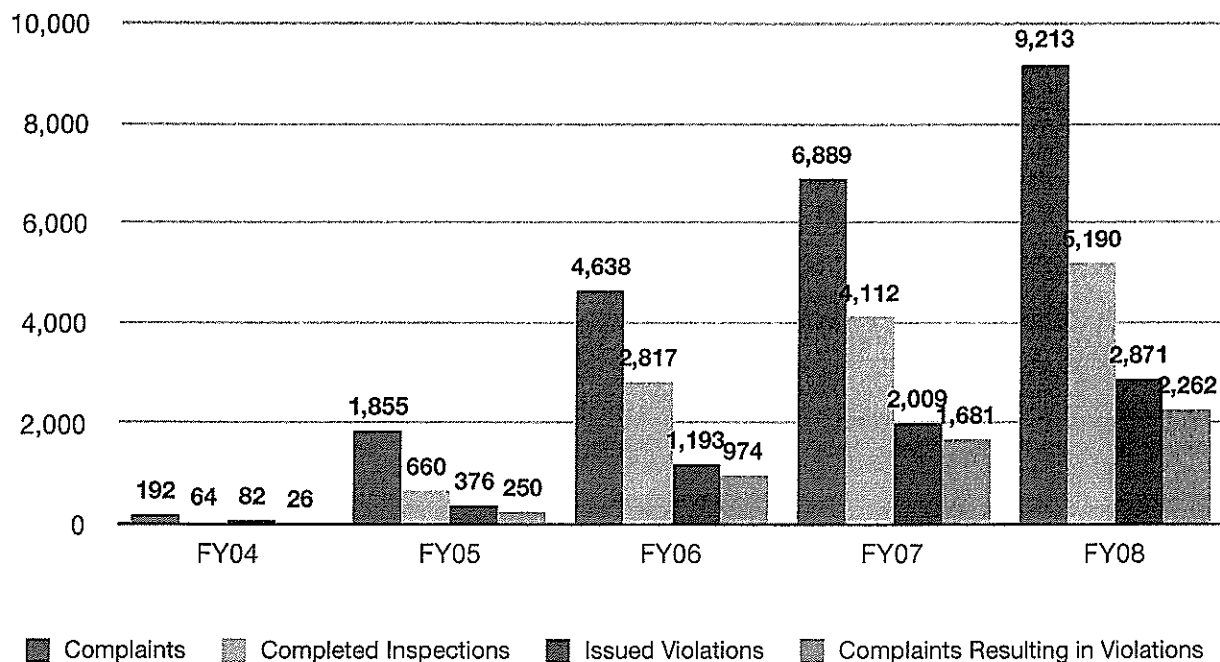
	Fiscal Year 2004		Fiscal Year 2008		% Increase	
	Complaints	Violations	Complaints	Violations	Complaints	Violations
Brooklyn	52	13	3,401	1,073	6,440%	8,154%
Manhattan	35	17	2,107	626	5,920%	3,582%
Queens	80	47	1,927	588	2,309%	1,151%
Bronx	25	5	1,682	546	6,628%	10,820%
Staten Island	0	0	96	38	NA	NA
Total	192	82	9,213	2,871	4,698%	3,401%

New York vs Bed Bugs

Data source: NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development

There are considerable gaps between the number of complaints, the number of completed inspections and the number of issued violations.

HPD Bed Bug Complaints, Completed Inspections, Issued Violations and Complaints Resulting in Violations – 2004-2008



New York vs Bed Bugs

Data source: NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development

You can view a map of the city's community districts and download your community district profile at the website of the Department of City Planning: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/lucds/cdstart.shtml>.

Ranked Community Districts Based on HPD Bed Bug Complaints – 2008

Rank	Borough	Community District	Neighborhoods	FY07	FY08	% Increase/Decrease
1	Brooklyn	4	Bushwick	476	561	17.9%
2	Manhattan	12	Washington Heights, Inwood	366	499	36.3%
3	Brooklyn	14	Flatbush, Ocean Parkway, Midwood	210	387	84.3%
4	Manhattan	10	Central Harlem	269	346	28.6%
5	Manhattan	9	West Harlem, Morningside Heights, Manhattanville, Hamilton Heights	216	342	58.3%
6	Bronx	4	Highbridge / Concourse	200	312	56.0%
7	Queens	1	Astoria & Long Island City	345	283	-18.0%
8	Bronx	7	Kingsbridge Heights., Bedford Park, Fordham, University Heights	220	259	17.7%
9	Brooklyn	7	Sunset Park, Windsor Terrace	157	248	58.0%
10	Bronx	5	Morris Heights, University Heights, Fordham, Mt. Hope	163	244	49.7%
11	Queens	2	Sunnyside & Woodside	240	243	1.3%
12	Brooklyn	1	Greenpoint, Williamsburg	148	240	62.2%
13	Brooklyn	3	Bedford Stuyvesant, Tompkins Park North, Stuyvesant Heights	124	234	88.7%
14	Queens	3	Jackson Heights, East Elmhurst, North Corona	198	228	15.2%
15	Brooklyn	11	Bensonhurst, Mapleton, Bath Beach, Gravesend	242	221	-8.7%
16	Manhattan	11	East Harlem	247	218	-11.7%
17	Queens	7	Flushing, Whitestone, College Point	150	214	42.7%
18	Manhattan	7	Lincoln Square, Upper West Side	160	203	26.9%
19	Queens	5	Maspeth, Middle Village, Ridgewood, Glendale	134	203	51.5%

Rank	Borough	Community District	Neighborhoods	FY07	FY08	% Increase/Decrease
20	Brooklyn	12	Borough Park, Ocean Parkway, Kensington	138	198	43.5%
21	Queens	4	Elmhurst & Corona	128	186	45.3%
22	Brooklyn	8	Crown Heights, Prospect Heights, Weeksville	85	185	117.6%
23	Brooklyn	5	East New York, New Lots, City Line, Starrett City	110	183	66.4%
24	Brooklyn	9	Crown Heights South, Prospect Lefferts Gardens, Wingate	79	157	98.7%
25	Manhattan	4	Chelsea, Clinton	162	156	-3.7%
26	Bronx	1	Mott Haven, Melrose, Port Morris	112	150	33.9%
27	Brooklyn	13	Coney Island, Brighton Beach, Gravesend, Homecrest, Seagate	120	146	21.7%
28	Brooklyn	10	Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights, Fort Hamilton	195	143	-26.7%
29	Queens	12	Jamaica, South Jamaica, Hollis, St. Albans	158	142	-10.1%
30	Bronx	9	Soundview, Castle Hill, Union Port, Parkchester	83	138	66.3%
31	Brooklyn	15	Sheepshead Bay, Manhattan Beach, Kings Highway, Gravesend	91	136	49.5%
32	Queens	9	Woodhaven, Richmond Hill, Kew Gardens	80	124	55.0%
33	Bronx	6	East Tremont, Bathgate, Belmont, West Farms	80	123	53.8%
34	Brooklyn	17	Flatbush, Rugby, Farragut, Northeast Flatbush	43	120	179.1%
35	Queens	14	The Rockaways, Broad Channel	53	114	115.1%
36	Bronx	3	Melrose, Morrisania, Claremont, Crotona Park East	56	92	64.3%
37	Bronx	2	Hunts Point, Longwood	54	91	68.5%
38	Bronx	12	Williamsbridge, Baychester, Woodlawn, Wakefield, Eastchester	37	91	145.9%
39	Manhattan	3	Lower East Side, Chinatown, Two Bridges	114	90	-21.1%

Rank	Borough	Community District	Neighborhoods	FY07	FY08	% Increase/Decrease
40	Queens	8	Fresh Meadows, Kew Gardens Hills, Jamaica Hills	49	83	69.4%
41	Bronx	11	Morris Park, Pelham Parkway, Bronxdale, Van Nest, Laconia	67	82	22.4%
42	Staten Island	1	North Island	36	74	105.6%
43	Brooklyn	16	Ocean Hill, Brownsville	58	70	20.7%
44	Manhattan	8	Upper East Side, Lenox Hill, Yorkville, Roosevelt Island	70	68	-2.9%
45	Manhattan	5	Midtown, Times Square, Herald Square, Midtown South	32	65	103.1%
46	Brooklyn	2	Downtown Brooklyn, Fort Greene, Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill	53	65	22.6%
47	Manhattan	2	Greenwich Village, Noho, Soho, Little Italy	43	58	34.9%
48	Manhattan	6	Murray Hill, East Midtown, Stuyvesant Town	44	55	25.0%
49	Bronx	8	Kingsbridge, Riverdale, Marble Hill, Fieldston	39	50	28.2%
50	Brooklyn	6	Red Hook, Park Slope, Gowanus, Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill	25	49	96.0%
51	Bronx	10	Throgs Neck, Pelham Bay, Co-op City, Westchester Square, City Island	6	46	666.7%
52	Brooklyn	18	Canarsie, Flatlands, Marine Park, Mill Basin, Bergen Beach	26	44	69.2%
53	Queens	6	Rego Park & Forest Hills	25	43	72.0%
54	Queens	13	Laurelton, Cambria Heights, Queens Village, Glen Oaks	18	26	44.4%
55	Queens	10	Howard Beach, Ozone Park, South Ozone Park	20	19	-5.0%
56	Staten Island	2	Mid-Island	10	18	80.0%
57	Brooklyn	0	undefined Brooklyn	2	14	600.0%
58	Queens	0	undefined Queens	1	13	1,200.0%

Rank	Borough	Community District	Neighborhoods	FY07	FY08	% Increase/Decrease
59	Queens	11	Bayside, Douglaston, Little Neck, Auburndale	3	6	100.0%
60	Manhattan	1	Civic Center, Wall Street, Governors Island, Liberty Island, Ellis Island, Tribeca	6	5	-16.7%
61	Bronx	0	undefined Bronx	0	4	NA
62	Manhattan	0	undefined Manhattan	0	2	NA
63	Staten Island	0	undefined Staten Island	0	2	NA
64	Staten Island	3	South Island	13	2	-84.6%

New York vs Bed Bugs

Data source: NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development

Complaints in the ten community districts below showed the highest increases from 2007 to 2008.

Top 10 Community Districts Ranked by Rate of Increase in HPD Complaints – 2008

Rank	Borough	Community District	Neighborhoods	FY07	FY08	% Increase/Decrease
1	Bronx	10	Throgs Neck, Pelham Bay, Co-op City, Westchester Square, City Island	6	46	666.7%
2	Brooklyn	17	Flatbush, Rugby, Farragut, Northeast Flatbush	43	120	179.1%
3	Bronx	12	Williamsbridge, Baychester, Woodlawn, Wakefield, Eastchester	37	91	145.9%
4	Brooklyn	8	Crown Heights, Prospect Heights, Weeksville	85	185	117.6%
5	Queens	14	The Rockaways, Broad Channel	53	114	115.1%
6	Staten Island	1	North Island	36	74	105.6%
7	Manhattan	5	Midtown, Times Square, Herald Square, Midtown South	32	65	103.1%
8	Queens	11	Bayside, Douglaston, Little Neck, Auburndale	3	6	100.0%

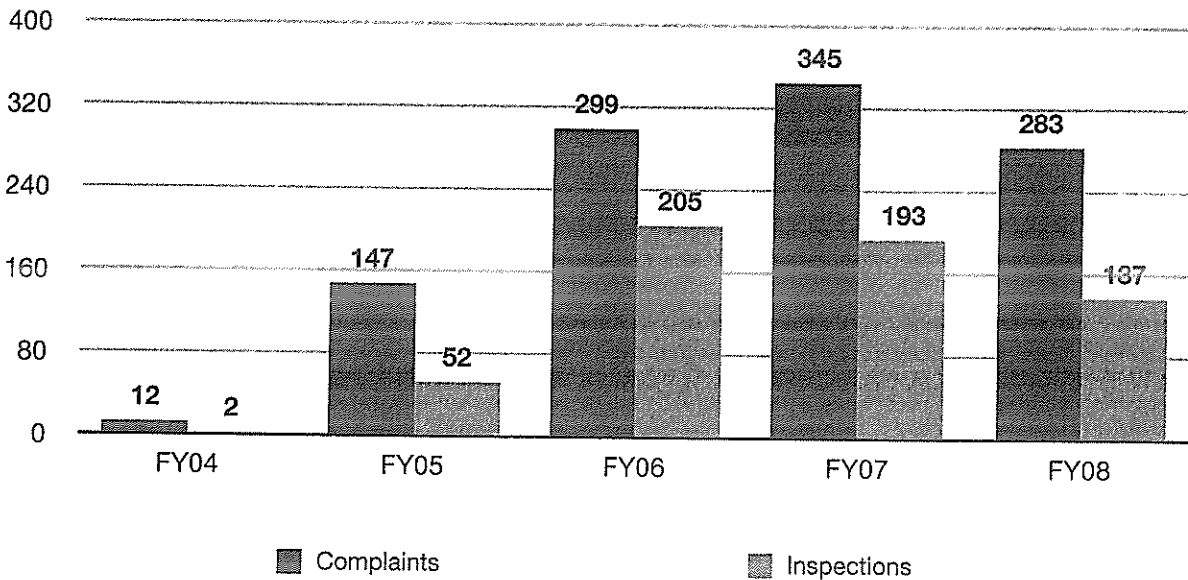
Rank	Borough	Community District	Neighborhoods	FY07	FY08	% Increase/Decrease
9	Brooklyn	9	Crown Heights South, Prospect Lefferts Gardens, Wingate	79	157	98.7%
10	Brooklyn	6	Red Hook, Park Slope, Gowanus, Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill	25	49	96.0%

New York vs Bed Bugs

Data source: NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development

Following is a sampling of bed bug complaints in selected community districts over 5 years, with numbers of completed HPD inspections.

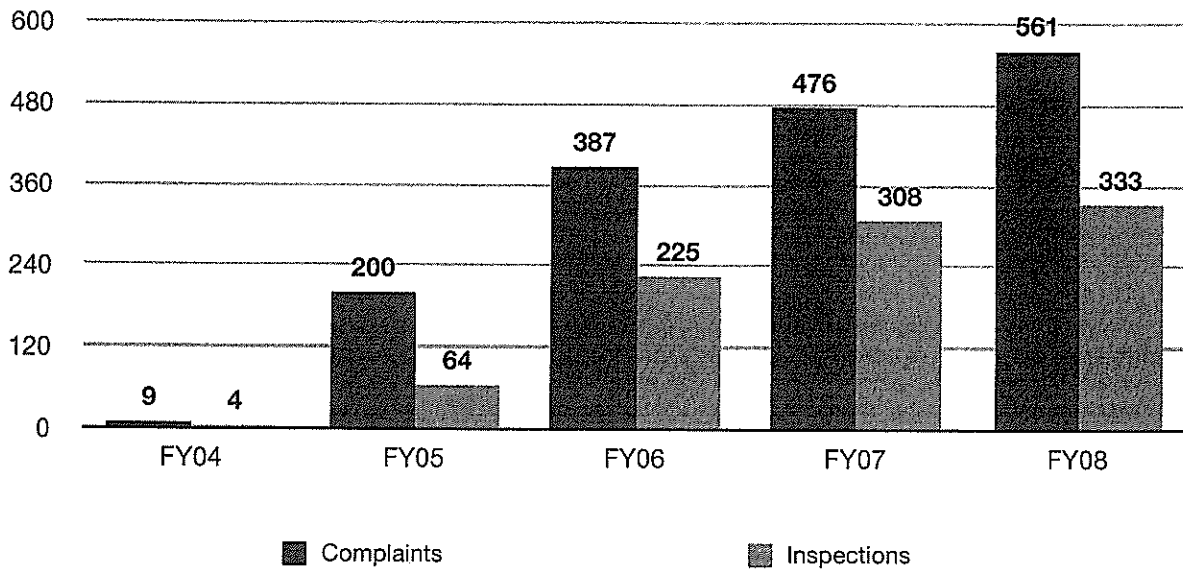
HPD bed bug complaints vs inspections in Queens CD1 (Astoria, Long Island City) – 2004-2008



New York vs Bed Bugs

Data source: NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development

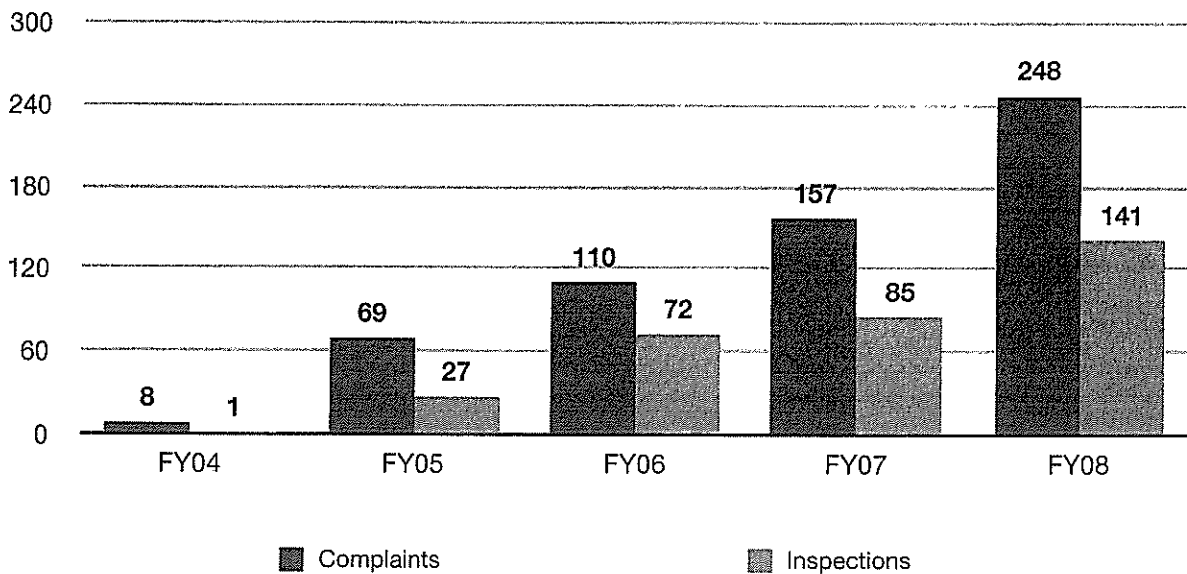
HPD bed bug complaints vs inspections in Brooklyn CD4 (Bushwick) — 2004-2008



New York vs Bed Bugs

Data source: NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development

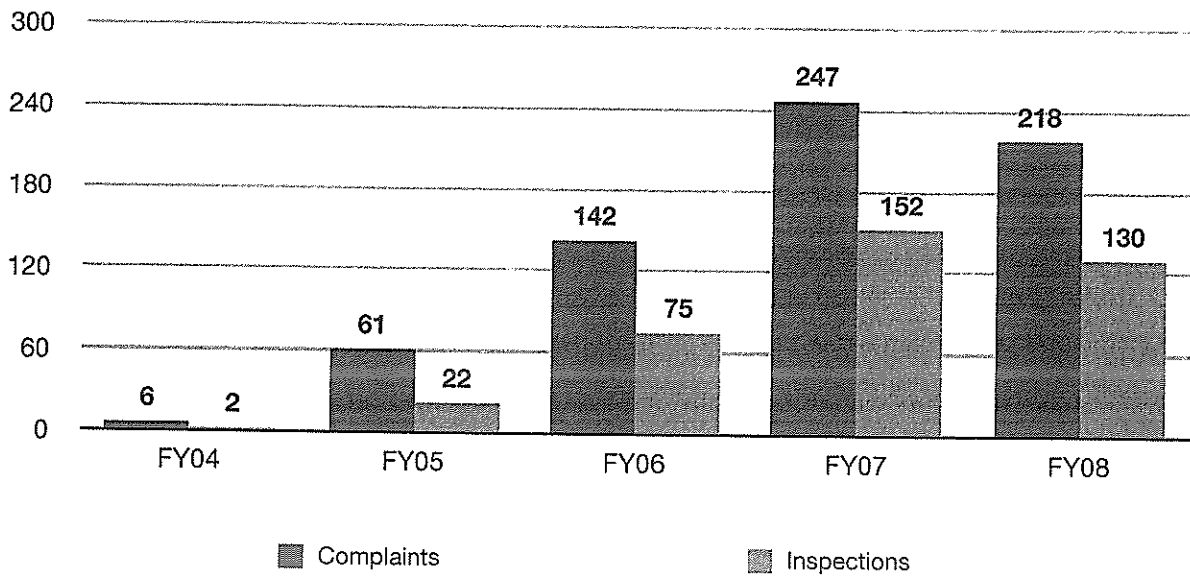
HPD bed bug complaints vs inspections in Brooklyn CD7 (Sunset Park, Windsor Terrace) — 2004-2008



New York vs Bed Bugs

Data source: NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development

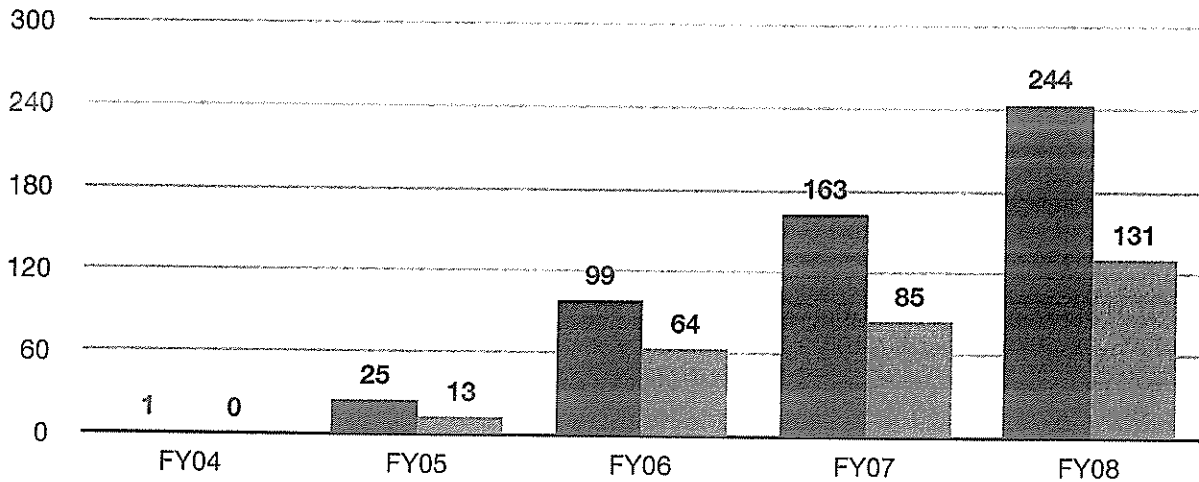
HPD bed bug complaints vs inspections in Manhattan CD11 (East Harlem) – 2004-2008



New York vs Bed Bugs

Data source: NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development

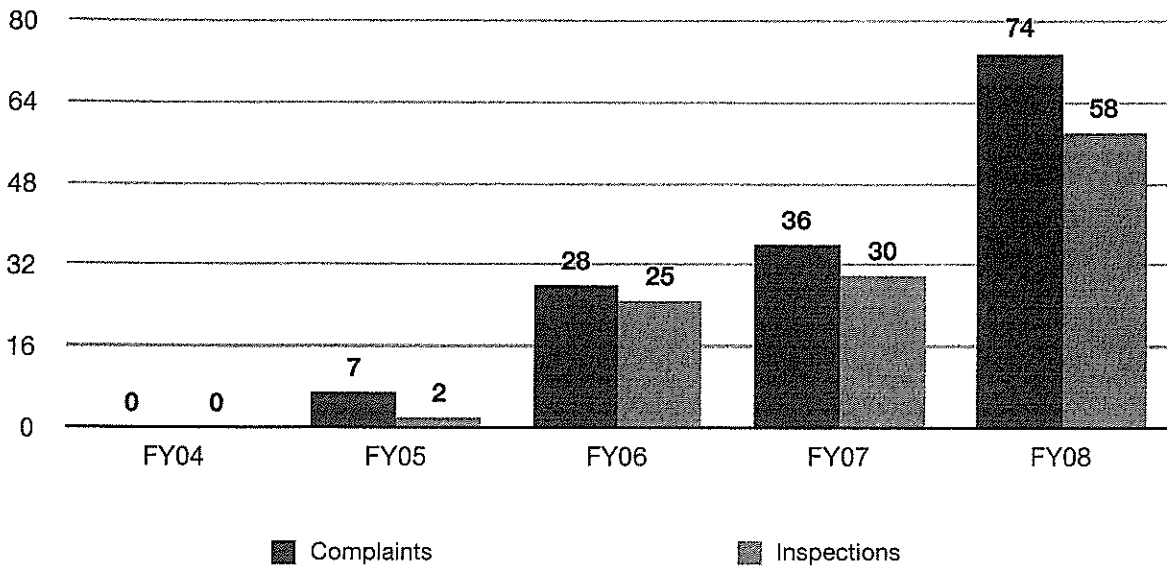
HPD bed bug complaints vs inspections in Bronx CD5 (Morris Heights, University Heights, Fordham, Mt. Hope) – 2004-2008



New York vs Bed Bugs

Data source: NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development

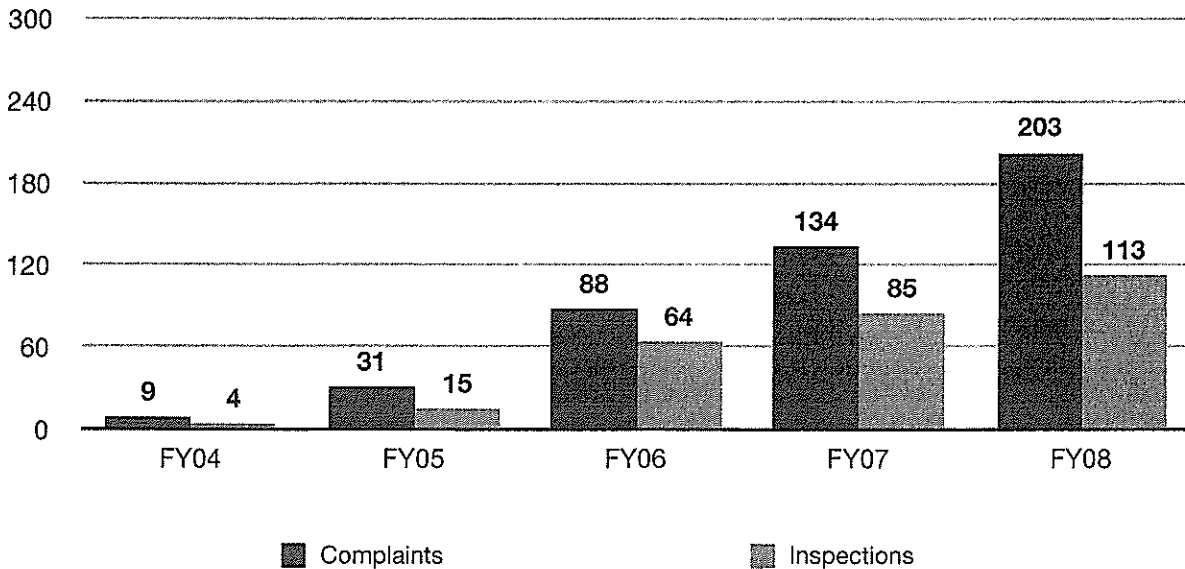
HPD bed bug complaints vs inspections in Staten Island CD1 (North Island) – 2004-2008



New York vs Bed Bugs

Data source: NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development

HPD bed bug complaints vs inspections in Queens CD5 (Maspeth, Middle Village, Ridgewood, Glendale) – 2004-2008



New York vs Bed Bugs

Data source: NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development

New York City Housing Authority

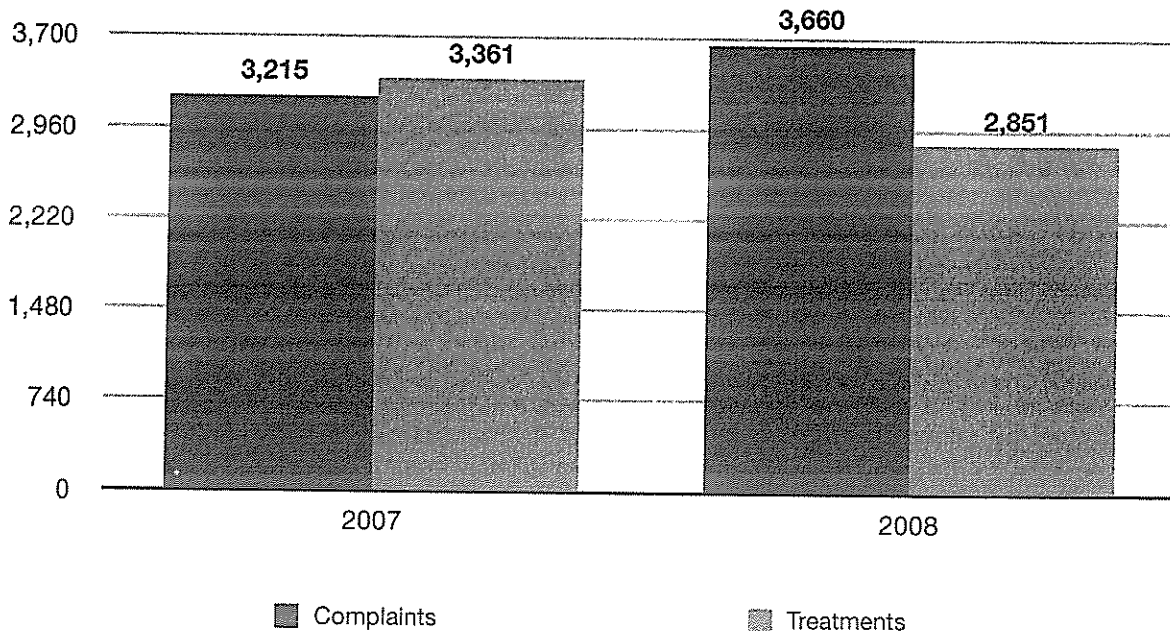
According to the website of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), 5% of New York City's population lives in NYCHA properties:

"NYCHA is the largest public housing authority in North America. NYCHA's Conventional Public Housing Program has 177,976 (as of December 2, 2008) apartments in 340 developments throughout the City in 2,618 residential buildings containing 3,335 elevators (as of November 30, 2008). NYCHA has 12,260 employees serving 173,731 families and 402,370 authorized residents (as of October 27, 2008). A total of 633,637 people, about 1 in 13 New Yorkers, are served by NYCHA's Public Housing and Section 8 Programs. If NYCHA were a city, it would rank 19th in population size in the United States, with New York City ranked first."²

NYCHA provides pest control services directly to its tenants, who can call a centralized maintenance line to report a bed bug problem, (718) 707-7771. Calls to 311 from NYCHA residents are routed to the maintenance line. Residents who report bed bugs receive, or are supposed to receive, three bed bug treatment visits, spaced two weeks apart, according to information we have obtained directly from the maintenance line operators.

We asked NYCHA for total number of complaints and for the total number of treatments for each complaint. We received information outlining total complaints and treatments. While complaints have increased, treatments have not.

NYCHA Bed Bug Complaints and Treatments — 2007-2008

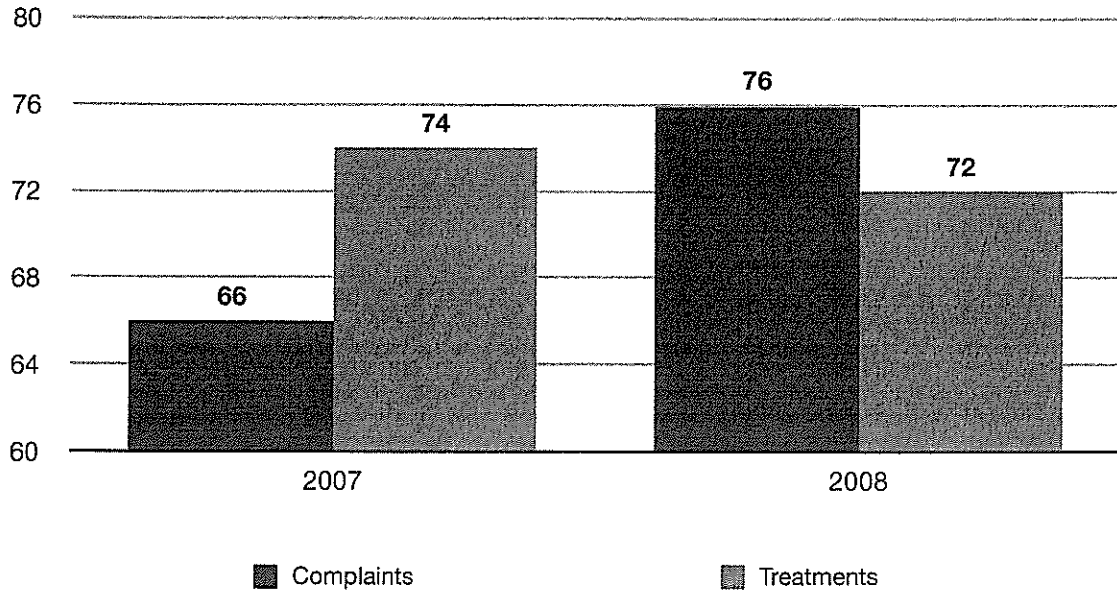


New York vs Bed Bugs

Data source: New York City Housing Authority

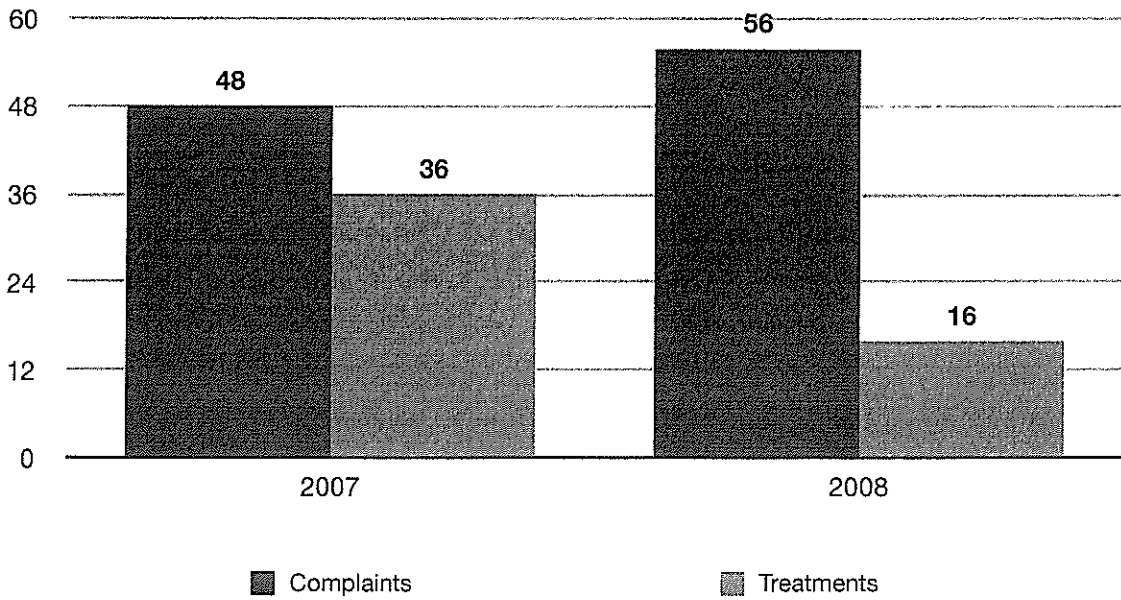
² New York City Housing Authority: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycha/html/about/factsheet.shtml>

NYCHA Bed Bug Complaints and Treatments in One Housing Development in Queens – 2007-2008



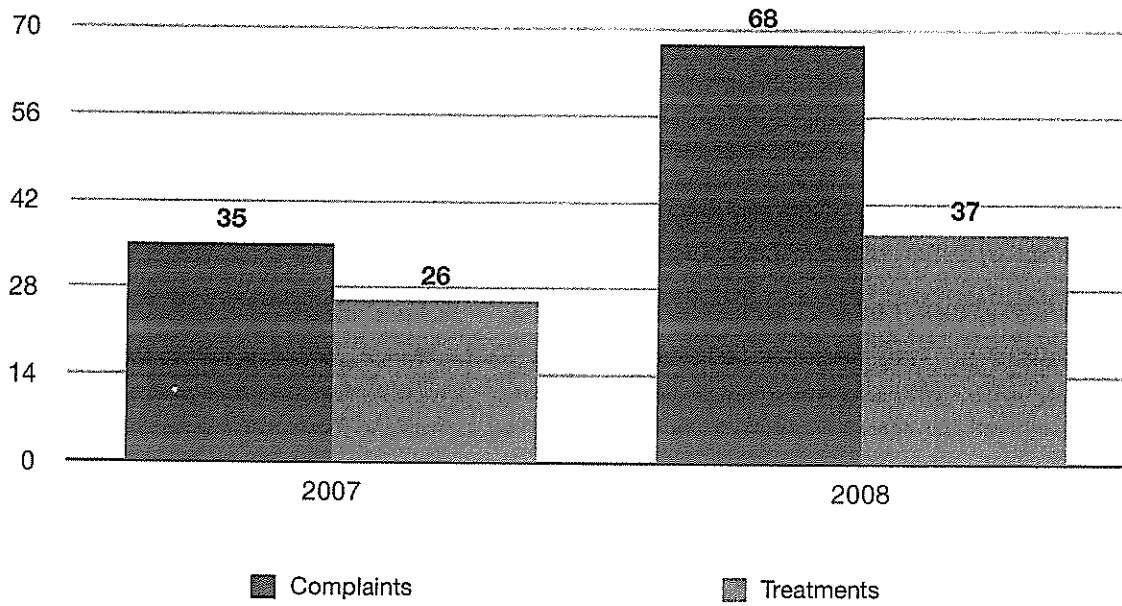
New York vs Bed Bugs
Data source: New York City Housing Authority

NYCHA Bed Bug Complaints and Treatments in One Housing Development in Manhattan (A) – 2007-2008



New York vs Bed Bugs
Data source: New York City Housing Authority

NYCHA Bed Bug Complaints and Treatments in One Housing Development in Manhattan (B) – 2007-2008



New York vs Bed Bugs

Data source: New York City Housing Authority

Statistics in other jurisdictions

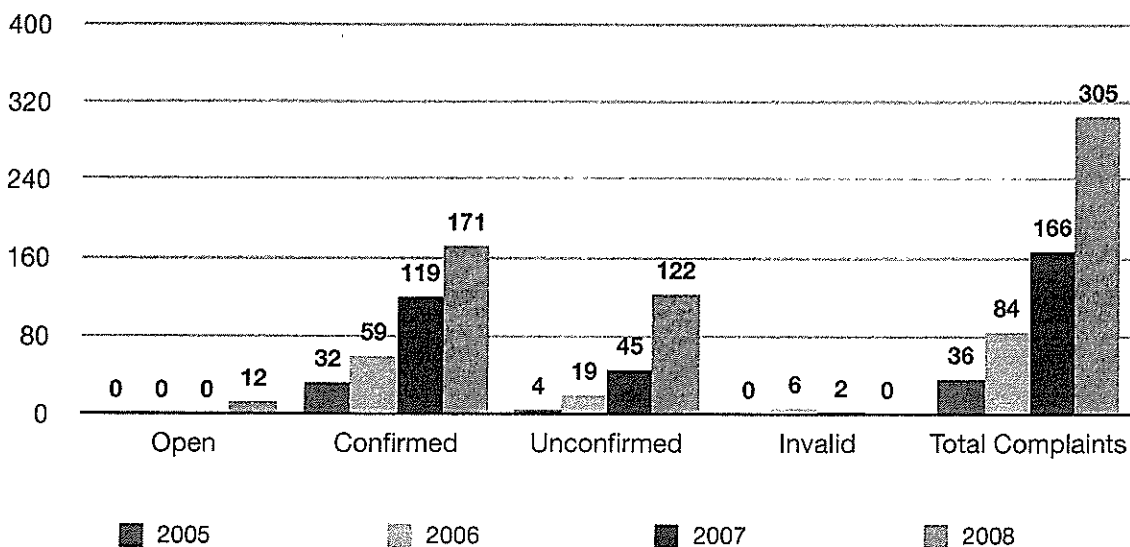
Toronto

The February 14, 2008 Report of the Toronto Medical Officer of Health³ included results of a pest control survey:

“TPH surveyed twelve pest control companies in December 2007, and received six responses. All six companies reported an increase in numbers of inquires and calls related to bed bugs from 2006 to 2007. [...] One company estimated 1200 treatments for bed bugs in 2007, and another company provided 400 to 450 treatments every month for bed bug infestations.”

From March to November 2008, Toronto Public Health received 1,444 requests for bed bug services.⁴

Bed Bug Complaints in Hamilton County, Ohio – 2005-2008



Source: Hamilton County Public Health

In 2008, Cincinnati commissioned a survey which showed that 14.5% of Cincinnati respondents, and 3.6% of Hamilton County respondents outside of Cincinnati, reported a bed bug problem in 2007.

The population of Hamilton County is 842,369. The population of Cincinnati is 332,458.

³ Medical Officer of Health's Report, February 14, 2008:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-11155.pdf>

⁴ Medical Officer of Health's Report, November 12, 2008:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-17412.pdf>

Stopping the spread

We believe that the tasks required to control the spread of bed bugs in our city can be derived from the following priorities.

Tracking infestations data

- We need data collection and analysis to find the true scope of the problem.
- In Cincinnati, a recent survey showed that 14.5% of respondents reported a bed bug infestation in 2007, a year when the official complaint tally was less than 800 complaints. The under-reporting rate suggested by this survey (over 98%) would yield a worrisome number if applied to New York City's HPD statistics.
- New York vs Bed Bugs recommends community and pest control industry surveys and a city-wide reporting database to track bed bug infestations.

A public education campaign

- A bed bug hotline, public service announcements, and well-designed bed bug information materials should be delivered on the web and directly to communities without internet access.
- The information that is most critical is: rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords, prevention, identification and the signs of infestation, best-practice bed bug management recommendations, and how to evaluate bed bug pest control providers.
- The goal of a coordinated public education effort: early detection of infestations and mitigation of the activities and bed bug management errors that contribute to the spread.

Clear bed bug control guidelines

- We believe that the single, most effective measure that would have an immediate impact in controlling the spread of bed bugs is the automatic, thorough inspection and monitoring by qualified pest management personnel of apartments and spaces adjoining an identified infestation. Inspection is the key to solving bed bug infestations, enabling the targeting of pest control resources to achieve eradication.
- Notification of building residents and the dissemination of good bed bug information and best-practice advice to all the residents in an affected building would reinforce awareness and prevention and facilitate early detection of infestations.
- Informed residents and property managers would be better able to evaluate the services rendered by pest control providers.

Specialized training of pest control providers, bed bug inspectors, and property management staff

- The importance of inspections, the methods and tools of inspection, preparation and treatment, and good bed bug management principles and techniques should be widely disseminated among professionals and property management staff, with the objective of decreasing the numbers of infestations that are mismanaged, that become entrenched and thus likely to spread in our communities.
- Additional public/private strategies should be investigated, such as social enterprise bed bug control, tenant preparation assistants, and other creative approaches that should be fomented and developed.

Sensible used mattress and furniture regulations

- New York State lacks used mattress sanitizing regulations.
- Bed bugs spread via the sale of improperly sanitized used bedding and used furniture and via the improper transportation of used bedding and furniture in trucks.
- New York vs Bed Bugs supports a ban on the sale of reconditioned mattresses. In the alternative, we recommend the consideration of mattress sanitizing regulations modeled on the regulations of the Southern Nevada Health District⁵ which found that heat sterilization is the most reliable sanitization method.

Bed bug garbage disposal protocols

- Not only does the dragging of infested belongings throughout common areas en route to trash disposal spread bed bugs, but bed bug trash that sits in basements awaiting collection can provide a reservoir of bed bugs that may re-infest the building or expose building staff.
- Sanitation workers must also be protected from exposure to bed bugs in improperly sealed bed bug trash. And all efforts to deter residents and passers-by from collecting infested items from the trash would greatly benefit overall control efforts and reduce the spread of infestations.
- New York vs Bed Bugs recommends the distribution of educational materials, similar to trash recycling materials, instructing New Yorkers on the ins and outs of bed bug trash. Examples of instructions would include how to seal and mark bed bug infested belongings for trash collection before removal from the apartment, and explanations on what belongings can actually be treated and saved.

⁵ Southern Nevada Health District Regulations Governing the Sanitation and Safety of Used Mattresses, Bedding, and Upholstered Furniture: http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/download/environmental_health/mattress-regs.pdf

Policy responses: three cities

Cincinnati

Cincinnati established a Bed Bug Remediation Commission in September 2007. The City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County formed a Joint Bed Bug Task Force and drafted an ambitious Strategic Plan⁶ that outlined the following initiatives and objectives: a hotline to report bed bug infestations and a joint city/county database to track infestations; bed bug surveys; a public education campaign; best practices for the inspection of infested premises and adjacent dwellings; training of pest control professionals; used furniture regulations; enforcement tools; and bed bug trash and furniture pick-up protocols and hotline.

Toronto

In February 2008, the Medical Officer of Health issued a report, at the request of the City Council, recommending the creation of a Bed Bug Action Committee, later renamed the Toronto Bed Bug Project. An interim report of the Medical Officer of Health in November 2008⁷ outlined the following initiatives and objectives: expansion of educational efforts; a bed bug survey and a secure reporting website for the pest control industry; development of best practices for businesses; five pilot projects in residential buildings with specific challenges; partnering with the pest control industry to lobby for more effective pesticides; and securing funding for a city-wide control strategy and for a social enterprise bed bug preparation program, Bug and Scrub.

Toronto Public Health has produced a bed bug website⁸ (accessible from the front page) that is the most comprehensive of its kind to date. Information provided includes a telephone hotline, half a dozen places to bring a bed bug sample for identification, and a fact sheet translated in thirteen languages. There are also fact sheets for pest control professionals, landlords and health care providers.

Boston

The Inspectional Services Department has the following policy for bed bug violations:

“Our Standard bed bug notice of violation also requires that owners inspect all units in the dwelling, and they must treat all horizontally and vertically adjacent units to the infested unit(s).”⁹

⁶ The Cincinnati / Hamilton County Joint Bed Bug Task Force Strategic Plan: <http://newyorkvsbedbugs.org/the-cincinnati-hamilton-county-joint-bed-bug-task-force-strategic-plan/>

⁷ The Toronto Bed Bug Project Medical Officer of Health's Staff Report, November 13, 2008: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hi/bgrd/backgroundfile-17412.pdf>

⁸ Toronto Public Health's bed bug website: <http://www.toronto.ca/health/bedbugs/index.htm>

⁹ City of Boston Inspectional Services Department: <http://www.cityofboston.gov/isd/housing/bb.asp>

Bed bugs are a public health pest

They are on the Environmental Protection Agency's *List of Pests of Significant Public Health Importance*:¹⁰

“Section 28(d) of the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) requires the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in coordination with the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), to identify pests of significant public health importance and, in coordination with the Public Health Service, to develop and implement programs to improve and facilitate the safe and necessary use of chemical, biological and other methods to combat and control such pests of public health importance. Issuance of this list fulfills the requirement of FIFRA sec. 28(d) to identify pests of significant public health importance as a part of this process.”

¹⁰ Pesticide Registration (PR Notice) Notice 2002-1: List of Pests of Significant Public Health Importance, http://www.epa.gov/PR_Notices/pr2002-1.pdf

New York City Council legislation

New York vs Bed Bugs supports legislative proposals introduced in the New York City Council by Council Member Gale Brewer that would create a bed bug task force (Int. 57-2006), establish a Department of Health and Mental Hygiene education program for pest control providers and property owners plus a hotline for the public (Int. 873-2008), and provide bed bug trash stickers and bags from the Department of Sanitation (Int. 872-2008).

A public hearing is scheduled for February 24 at 1 p.m. at City Hall

We urge New Yorkers to attend, to tell their bed bug stories and ask for a comprehensive plan to stop the spread of bed bugs in New York City.

Those who are unable to attend can submit written testimony before the hearing to the New York City Council's Health Committee Counsel, Adira Siman, via email at ASiman@council.nyc.gov



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Written testimony submitted in support of
Int. No. 57, Int. No 872 and Int. No 873 - In
relation to, the sale of reconditioned
mattresses, the disposal of mattresses and
furniture and in relation to requiring the
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
to establish a bed bug technique training
program for pest control.

The Council of the City of New York,
Committee of Consumer Affairs, Health and
Sanitation.

February 24, 2009

Timothy M. Wenk, Esq.
Shafer Glazer, LLP
Your House Counsel®
90 John Street, Suite 701
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They're back. Bed bugs, the once defeated pests are now staging a comeback across the United States. Blame it on more international travel, banning of insecticides, careless hotel housekeeping, or a combination of these factors and more. The bottom line is that our old foes bed bugs, have returned to the scene—with a vengeance. And, without careful planning and detection there can be draconian legal implications for innkeepers, landlords, common carriers, furniture dealers, movie house owners, and exterminators to name but a few.

Six years ago, Federal Judge Richard A. Posner upheld a startling award of \$382,000 in the case of Mathias v. Accor Economy Lodging Inc. and Motel 6 Operating L.P., 347 F.3d 672, 676 (7th Cir. 2003). In this case, a brother and sister were attacked by bed bugs while staying in a Motel 6 in Chicago. They sued. A jury awarded them each \$186,000 in punitive damages and \$5,000 in compensatory damages. The legal ramifications of the resurgence of bedbugs have yet to be completely realized. However, several court rulings should have landlords, building management companies and hotel owners concerned.

There are several varying theories as to why bedbugs are staging a comeback. Some suggest that the problem is related to the switch from the use of insecticides to bait gels. Others cite the rise in bedbugs to increased foreign travel. The world is not only a smaller place for humans- it has become increasingly smaller for bedbugs as well. These opportunistic parasites are known as proficient hitch hikers. They travel from one place to another in luggage and clothing, jumping off at homes and hotels. What is worse is that these resilient pests have been known to survive five hundred days without feeding. That means that a bedbug can crawl into luggage, live there for a year and a half without feeding, and then crawl out of the luggage and into a home or hotel room, infesting the place with its offspring.

It only takes one female bedbug to lead to a local infestation. A well-fed female can lay up to five hundred eggs in a lifetime. Those eggs will hatch within six to twenty eight days depending on the weather.

Bedbugs are small, brownish, flattened insects that feed solely on the blood of animals. After a feeding, their color changes from brown to reddish rust color. These nasty little critters are known to hide in crevices during the day and come out for their blood meals at night. Bedbugs are commonly found in molding, behind wall paper and in cracks in hardwood floors. Despite their world wide travels, bedbugs are not known to crawl long distances. They conveniently live close to their sleeping meals.

Being bitten by a bedbug has been described as being similar being bitten by a mosquito. While an allergic reaction is possible, usually a bedbug bite only leads a small welt (less than one centimeter), with irritation and itching. At feeding time, a bedbug will pierce the skin with its elongated beak, inject saliva that contains an anticoagulant (substances that inhibit blood clot formation) and suck the blood out of its victim. This feast usually only lasts four to twelve minutes. Typically, the adverse reaction that one has after being bitten by these bloodthirsty bugs is a result of the saliva that is injected into one's system by the unwanted creature.

For the last decade the Courts of the State of New York have been pestered with litigation concerning bedbugs. Judicial decisions have varied. At times, the Courts have ruled that that the tenants have to learn to live with these pesky blood suckers, and at other times the Courts have found that the dreadful nightmare of living with bedbugs rises to the level of a constructive eviction, which relieves the tenant of their common law obligations to pay rent.

In 1908, the Supreme Court, Appellate Term found in Jacobs v. Morand, 9 Misc. 200, 110 N.Y.S. 208 (Appellate Term 1908), that tenant's are not relieved of their obligations to pay rent when an apartment is overrun with vermin. The Court reasoned that the bedbug infestation in question could have been abated by the tenant. Therefore, the tenant was not relieved of his common law duty to pay rent because he could have remedied the situation.

Now, after almost a century the judiciary's view of these red coated ramblers has changed. In 2004, Judge Bedford, of New York County's Court, ruled that bedbug infestation is an intolerable condition that breaches the Warranty of Habitability. In the case of Ludlow Properties v. Young, 780 N.Y.S. 2d 853 (NY City Civ. Ct., 2004), the plaintiff commenced nonpayment proceedings against a tenant. In response, the defendant asserted a breach of Warranty of Habitability defense based on the presence of bedbugs in his apartment. The court found that the tenant was entitled to an abatement based upon the Implied Warranty of Habitability pursuant to the Real Property Law 235-b, which protects against conditions that materially affect the health and safety of tenants.

In Ludlow Properties, the tenant was able to show through his graphic testimony how the presence of bedbugs affected his health, safety and welfare. Notably, the court distinguished between bedbugs and other vermin like mice and roaches. The Court found that the presence of roaches and mice, while offensive, does not constitute constructive eviction. The presence of bedbugs, however justified a finding of constructive eviction because vermin such as mice and roaches, unlike bedbugs, do not have the same affect on one's life. The court distinguished between bedbugs and other types of vermin, noting that "bedbugs feed upon one's blood in hoards while one is sleeping, thus turning a nights sleep into a hellish experience".

Recently in Grogan v. Gamber Corp. (112008/03) Supreme Court Justice Judith J. Gische let go forward the negligence claims of two Maryland tourists for bites they sustained during a two-night stay at the theater district's Milford Plaza. The tourists, are seeking \$2 million in compensatory damages and an unspecified amount of punitive damages. In rejecting their request for punitive damages, Justice Gische referred to a New York City Department of Health pamphlet in ruling that the two women had failed "to raise a triable issue of fact whether bedbugs are anything more than a nuisance."

This problem is not isolated to landlord-tenant disputes. As seen in the media, there have been a number of bed bug related personal injuries lawsuits filed in the Courts of the State of New York.

In July 2005, Leslie Fox stayed at a Catskills, New York resort. She allegedly suffered over 500 bed bug bites during her stay. She recently sued the 700-room hotel for \$20 million, claiming that her “body and mind were scarred” because of the bites which she never felt. This case is still pending.

In 2003, Helmsley Park Lane Hotel in New York was sued after two business men allegedly suffered numerous bed bug bites to their torsos, arms and necks while staying at the property. Helmsley Enterprises Inc., the owner of the hotel, settled the suit for \$150,000.

In response to the resurgence of bed bugs, lawmakers around the country have proposed or enacted statutes dealing with this growing problem.

Representative G.K. Butterfield (D-North Carolina) has introduced H.R. 6068, the Don't Let the Bed Bugs Bite Act of 2008. The Don't Let the Bed Bugs Bite Act of 2008, is now in consideration by the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection, and would primarily give states funding to inspect hotel rooms for bed bugs.

New Jersey lawmakers have proposed a bill dealing with these unwanted pests as well. Three Assembly members -- Joan M. Quigley, L. Grace Spencer and L. Harvey Smith -- have introduced bed bug legislation A-3203, a bill that would make landlords entirely responsible for keeping apartments free of bedbugs. Under the New Jersey State Bill, landlords would have to exterminate bedbugs at their own expense when an outbreak occurs. Those who fail to take action could face fines of \$300 per infested apartment and \$1,000 per infested common area. In September of 2008, the Jersey City Council adopted an ordinance making landlords financially liable for getting rid of bedbugs.

In Boston, the Housing Authority enforces regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (Massachusetts 105 CMR 410.000: MINIMUM STANDARDS OF FITNESS FOR HUMAN HABITATION (STATE SANITARY CODE, CHAPTER II, specifically section 410.550: Extermination of Insects, Rodents and Skunks). This statute spells out measures required by owner-occupants, tenants, or

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agents of properties in dealing with insects. In practice, reports by residents may initiate a visit by Boston Inspectional Services. If those inspectors detect an infestation, the discovery is documented. The property owner/manager is then required to file with the city a written integrated pest management (IPM) plan detailing the actions that will be performed by licensed pest management professionals, property managers and tenants. Follow up inspections may be performed until the case has been closed.

San Francisco has also passed guidelines to cope with these nocturnal nuisances. Article 11, Sec. 581 of San Francisco Health Code sets out the requirements for owners and operators of hotels and other multi-unit dwellings in dealing with these pests. Requirements under this statute include training staff to identify bed bugs, procedures for reporting and responding to complaints about bed bugs, treatment and control of bed bugs in hotel rooms, management of furnishings and materials infested with bed bugs required recordkeeping, guidance for pest control companies, and the responsibilities of tenants for the prevention and control of bed bugs.

The bottom line is that, after their temporary demise, bed bugs are back all across the country. The increase in bed bug infestations has detrimental implications for hotels, landlords, management companies, and unlucky victims of a bed bug feeding. It is simply time for the legislators to act. There can be no doubt that the sale of reconditioned mattresses and the manner in which mattresses are discarded in New York City contribute to the increase of infestations. But more can be done to combat this problem. Innkeepers, building owners and managers, tenants, and pest control companies need to be educated about the description and habits of these little beasts and how to defeat them. A task force should be formed to set guidelines and requirements to address this growing epidemic.

Timothy M. Wenk is a lawyer with the law firm of Shafer Glazer, LLP, based out of New York City. Shafer Glazer, LLP, is a civil litigation firm with an emphasis on insurance defense. Timothy is admitted to practice law in New York, New Jersey, and the U.S. District Court, in both the Southern and Eastern Districts. He is also a member of the New York State Bar Association. In addition to his trial work, he is an arbitrator in the New York City Civil Court. Timothy has represented hotels, restaurants, building management companies, building owners, homeowners, business owners, and the like. He handles cases in federal and state trial and appellate courts, as well as mediation and arbitration.

Timothy is the author of Good Night, Sleep Tight, Don't Let the Cimex Lectularis Bite, which was published in the New York Law Journal on January 27, 2006. He has given numerous lectures regarding the legal implications of bed bug resurgence and is frequently cited for his depth of knowledge in regards to this growing epidemic.

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 872 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 2/24/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LIMAS FORTE

Address: _____

I represent: WE ACT FOR Environmental Justice

Address: 271 West 125th St, NY, NY

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

Date: 2-24-09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: GYL BLOOM

Address: 2580 STEINWAY ST. ASTORIA-NY 11103

I represent: NEW YORK STATE PEST MGMT ASSOCIATION

Address: SAME AS ABOVE

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LISA ARKIS

Address: 191 Claremont Ave

I represent: self

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 2/24/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: EDGAR BUTTS - ASSISTANT

Address: COMMISSIONER

I represent: DOHMH - VETERINARY & PEST

Address: CONTROL SERVICES

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 2-24-09

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: LOUIS SORKIN
Address: AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
I represent: HISTORY
Address: _____

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Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Timothy Wenk
Address: 90 John St Suite 701
I represent: _____
Address: _____

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Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 873 Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 02/24/09

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: MILK BARIR
Address: 195 STANTON STREET
I represent: STANTON ST. TENANTS ASSOC.
Address: 195 STANTON ST. ASSOC.

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dr. Edgar Butts

Address: _____

I represent: DOHMH

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DR. ROBERT CORRIGAN

Address: _____

I represent: DOHMH

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 2/23/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sara Jacobs

Address: _____

I represent: Assemblyman Felix ORTIZ

Address: 404 55th St. Bklyn, NY 11220

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Appearance Card

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 in favor in opposition

Date: 2-24-09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Barbara Flynn

Address: 100 Gold St

I represent: HPD Intergovernmental Affairs

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dr Philip Tierno

Address: _____

I represent: NYU Medical Center NYC

Address: 520 First St

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Appearance Card

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 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ANDREW ELLER

Address: _____

I represent: DCA

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 57/872/873 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 2/24/2009

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ryan Trainor

Address: 1501 Wythe St.

I represent: International Sleep Products Assn (ISPA)

Address: Alexandria VA 22314

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 57/832/873 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: Feb 24 2009

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Renee Corea Renee COREA

Address: 1951 Edison Ave Bronx NY 10461

I represent: New York vs Bed Bugs

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Marilyn Little

Address: 273 East 10 St #5 NY 10009

I represent: myself

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: Feb 24 2009

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: John J. Hoffmann

Address: 228 Thompson Hill, Hawthorne, NJ 07042

I represent: Board of Directors, PMA Program

Address: 130 W. North St. Greenvale, NY 11548

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 57, 572, 873 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/29/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ray Lopez

Address: 409 E 118th Street #3 NY, NY 10035

I represent: LSA Family Health Service, Inc.

Address: 333 E 115th Street NY, NY 10029

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Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 52, 872 & Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition 873-A

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Richard Cooper

Address: 357 Lawrence Station Road

I represent: Independent Expert

Address: _____

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in favor in opposition

Date: 2-24-09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Margaret Fitzgerald

Address: 717 W 177 St

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Appearance Card

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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT) Bureau of Collections

Name: Chief Peter McKeon, NYC Dept of Sanitation

Address: 125 Worth Street, NY, NY 10013

I represent: NYC Dept. of Sanitation, Bureau of
Collection

Address: _____

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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Erin Fisher

Address: 665 9th Ave #2E

I represent: _____

Address: _____



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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 2/24/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Timothy Wong, Technical Director

Address: _____

I represent: MAM Pest Control

Address: 32 Orchard St. NY NY 212-219-8218

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in favor in opposition

Date: 2/24/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JEFF EISENBERG

Address: 2067 BROADWAY #6E NY NY

I represent: PEST AWAY EXTERMINATING 10023

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Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ALAN SCHURMAN

Address: 61 Broadway NY NY 10006

I represent: Schurman & Schurman

Address: see

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Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 2-24-09

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Christine Kelley Karel

Address: 161 W 54th St. #304, 10019

I represent: myself & husband

Address: 161 West 54th St #304 NY 10019

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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Courtney Turay

Address: 4700 Broadway S-F, 10040

I represent: my family

Address: _____

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Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Diana Foster

Address: 647 Franklin Ave

I represent: myself and my neighbors

Address: _____

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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: CESAR (PLEASE PRINT) Soto

Address: 2102 Bx. PR. EAST

I represent: Freedom Pest R9 unit

Address: Same

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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Ingrid (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: Buckner

Address: Buckner

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Appearance Card

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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Dolande (PLEASE PRINT) cadore

Address: 271 W. 125th St, NYC 10027

I represent: WE ACT for Environmental

Address: JUSTICE

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms