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September Marks First National Bed Bug Awareness Month **News and Community Release**

This September marks the first ever National Bed Bug Awareness Month. This is a comprehensive educational campaign throughout the country.

“Educating the public is essential in addressing the prevention and treatment of bed bug infestations. Last year bed bugs received a tremendous push in awareness due widespread news exposure. However, there are still many myths and misconceptions and it is important that the facts get out,” said Raul Pino, Acting Director of Hartford’s Department of Health and Human Services.

During the past 3-5 years bed bugs have proven to be an extremely complex pest. Effective treatments are available. Property managers should have a pest management plan in place. The most effective is one that utilizes Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM is the use of all possible methods in a logical combination that minimizes risk of pesticide exposure, safeguards the environment, and maximizes effectiveness.

Fast Facts about Bed Bugs

Bed bugs:

- Do not transmit diseases to people
- May trigger asthma
- Cannot fly or jump, but can run fast
- Are large enough to be seen
- Can be transported in personal belongings
- Are often found on thrown out furniture
- Can travel through a building
- Can be difficult to control
- Can be eliminated and prevented

Residents are urged to know what bed bugs look like and where to look for them, notify their building manager or landlord immediately, and follow instructions. Do not try to use pesticides on your own. The adequacy and timeliness of bed bug management is critical to controlling the infestation and we must work together to control the issue.

The City of Hartford Health and Human Services has information available regarding bed bugs on our website www.hartford.gov or you can call (860) 757-4846 with questions or concerns. The City is working collaboratively with other municipal departments to address the issue.