

**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COUNCIL MEMBER GALE A. BREWER**



**CITY HALL
NEW YORK, NY 10007
TEL: 212-788-6975
FAX: 212-513-7717
www.council.nyc.gov**

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

**COUNCIL HEARS BREWER'S BILLS TO
WEAKEN BED BUGS' BITE**

**Contact: Kunal Malhotra
Office: (212) 788 6975 and Cell: (347) 461 4329
KMalhotra@council.nyc.gov**

- WHAT: Press Conference in Support of Proposed Bed Bug Legislation: Int 57-2006, 872-2008 and 873-2008 and Reso 1414 of 2008**
- WHO: Council Member Gale A. Brewer, Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Dr. Louis Sorkin of the American Museum of Natural History, and Renee Corea of New York vs. Bed Bugs**
- WHEN: Tuesday, February 24, 11:00 A.M.**
- WHERE: City Hall Steps**

In response to concerns about the City's growing number of bed bug infestations, the New York City Council's Committees on Consumer Affairs, Sanitation, and Health will be holding a joint hearing Tuesday February 24, 2009 on three bills that seek to improve the City's administrative and technical mechanisms for increasing public education, resources, and consumer awareness in choosing informed exterminating services. Council Member Brewer, the primary sponsor of the four bills, will be hosting a press conference in support of this legislation at 11:00 A.M.

Intro 57 proposes the creation of a Bed Bug Task Force and prohibits the sale of reconditioned mattresses. Intro 872 creates guidelines for the proper disposal of infected mattresses. Intro 873 requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to establish a bed bug technique training program for pest control professionals and building owners. Finally, Reso 1414 calls upon the State to promulgate standards and rules concerning the sanitization of mattresses that include requirements sufficient to eradicate bedbugs in reconditioned mattresses before their sale.

New York City has lagged behind other cities, like Cincinnati, San Francisco, Boston and Toronto in dealing with its infestation problem. Currently, DOHMH offers a bed bug fact sheet in Spanish and English that is available through 311 and the City website. In 2008, Brewer worked with the Department of Housing, Preservation, and Development to create a series of public education seminars given in neighborhoods throughout the City.

"That's just not good enough," says Council Member Gale A. Brewer. "It's great that we're not smoking as much, and great that we're not eating trans fats, but we need to focus on bed bugs in the same aggressive manner."

The public hearing regarding the Bed Bug legislation will be held on **Tuesday, February 24th at 1:00 P.M.** in **Council Chambers of City Hall.**