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Davis, John

From: Schmieder, Jon
Sent: Friday, August 12, 2011 9:17 AM
To: Davis, John; Fiume, Bryan
Cc: Loomis, Grant
Subject: Vector Control Program
Attachments: Vector Control Program Letter.pdf

Gentleman,

Attached is a letter we sent to all 44 local municipalities in Erie County. Please disburse to your members.
Thanks!

-Jon

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Erie County's vision: Erie County will be a world-class community where People want to live, Businesses want to locate and Tourists want to visit.



COUNTY OF ERIE

CHRIS COLLINS

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

ANTHONY J. BILLITTIER IV, M.D., FACEP
Commissioner of Health

August 11, 2011

Hon. Byron Brown
City of Buffalo, Mayor
65 Niagara Square
Room 201
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Mayor Brown:

As you may be aware, Erie County eliminated the non-mandated services related to the Vector and Pest Control Program in the 2011 Budget. Some municipalities have expressed an interest in performing these non-mandated services and the Collins administration, working with the County Legislature, allocated \$70,000 to help achieve that goal. This funding will be used to help local municipalities gain the proper certifications and permits to apply rodenticide. While the County Executive's Office has received some requests for funding, some confusion still exists on how a municipality can apply for funding. I hope this letter clarifies the process moving forward.

Based on Erie County's understanding and interpretation of NYSDEC regulations regarding Pesticide Certification and Business Registration, in order for a municipality to properly apply rodenticide in response to resident complaints, the municipality must possess a valid 'Business/Agency Registration' with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) as required by NYCRR Part 325.23. The registration fee is \$900. A municipal employee who will be designated to perform rodent control activities will need to obtain a NYSDEC Category 7A, Structural Pest & Rodent Control Pesticide Applicators license. If an employee previously was certified and obtained a Category 8, Public Health Pest Control license, that individual will need to maintain annual continuing education certification. Employees of municipalities who are not currently certified applicators or technicians must meet mandated NYSDEC eligibility requirements before those individuals can complete the certification exam process.

The process to become a Certified Applicator includes a 30-hour Pesticide Certification Course (\$600), Pesticide Certification Exam (\$100), Certification Fee (\$450), continuing education requirement of 8 hours every 3 years (\$75-\$100). Certified Pesticide Applicators would be able

to apply "general use" and "restricted use" rodenticide. Certified Pesticide Technicians on the other hand would only be able to apply "general use" rodenticide or, under the direct on-site supervision of a Certified Pesticide Applicator, "restricted use" rodenticide. A municipal Certified Pesticide Applicator will be required to maintain detailed daily pesticide application records, file annual reports of pesticides applied to the NYSDEC. Additional information regarding certification requirements can be found on the NYSDEC website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/209.html>.

Code enforcement activities within Erie County municipalities are generally related to the NYS Property Maintenance Code (Section of Unified Building Code). Local code changes may need to be determined by each local municipality with reference to your municipality's current code enforcement capabilities. At a minimum, all municipalities have NYS Property Maintenance Code available for enforcement or preventive measures. As expected, some municipalities in Erie County already utilize individuals trained as Certified Pesticide Applicator.

The County will assist municipalities by paying for the proper certification and licensing for the local municipality. Please note that the County will only pay for the certification of a municipal employee, not expenses related to salaries. In addition, the County will supply start-up materials to the municipality, subject to availability of funds and assessment of need, once the municipality obtains the proper certification and licensure.

While considering requests for funding, the County will take into consideration the preventative measures your municipality has in place to help curb the rodent population. These measures include, but are not limited to, garbage container laws, rubbish and refuse control, as well as zoning, dumping, nuisance and property maintenance codes and ordinances.

Erie County will continue to utilize its available tools and resources to work with the community to satisfy its mandated requirements set forth by New York State and the Federal Government related to the Vector and Pest Control Program. This will include responding and investigating all rabies, rodent and nuisance complaints, as well as, any other complaint, concern or question a resident may have.

Should your municipality be interested in applying to receive funding to gain the proper certifications and permits to apply rodenticide, please send your request in writing to the attention of Jon Schmieder, Director of Intergovernmental Relations. Jon can be reached by mail at 95 Franklin Street - 16th Floor, Buffalo, NY 14202 or by e-mail at jon.schmieder@erie.gov.

Sincerely,



Anthony J. Billittier IV, MD, FACEP
Commissioner of Health
County of Erie

CC: Jon Schmieder, Director of Intergovernmental Relations
Erie County Legislature