



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 9, 2019

To: Board of Public Works
From: Raymond A Rogozinski, P.E.
Director of Public Works

Re: Transfer Station – Processing of Mattresses

The DPW transfer station receives mattresses from residents free of charge pursuant to state statute. Approximately 220 mattresses are received each month, 341 were received in April. The mattresses are stored in a 48 foot long storage unit until collected by a City vender. No fee is charged to the City to collect and dispose of the mattresses.

DPW transfer station staff currently assists residents with the unloading of mattresses and loading of the mattresses into the City storage unit. As a result, they are potentially exposed to bed bugs. In order to mitigate worker exposure to bed bugs, the Department proposes providing a supply of mattress covers at the transfer station and require residents to remove the mattresses from their vehicles and have them install a City supplied mattress cover prior to DPW staff providing assistance. Once the mattress cover is installed, DPW will provide full assistance to the resident. In order to implement this new procedure, the DPW requests the following action:

Authorize DPW to supply bed mattress covers and require residents to install mattress covers at the transfer station prior to DPW staff providing assistance.

If approved by the DPW, notice will be provided on the Department's website to notify residents of the requirement. We will instruct DPW staff to be courteous to residents when explaining the new policy. We recognize that not all mattress are infected with bed bugs, but in order to protect workers we request that mattress covers be installed at the transfer station. Installation of the cover by residents prior coming to the transfer station will not be sufficient since bed bugs may be on the outside of the cover. The cost of mattress covers is approximately \$2.50 each.

In addition, staff will be provided with a protective Tyvek suit when working in the mattress storage unit and staff training for protection against bed bugs will be provided.

City of Bristol Public Works
Email: www.bristolct.gov/publicworks
860-584-6125 or 860-584-7791

It should be noted that the City mattress disposal vender has been contacted and have indicated that although they prefer the City not install mattress covers they will continue to collect the mattresses. The proposed practice of installing covers will not impact collection.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 860-584-6113.