



NEWS RELEASE

High Point Housing Authority

500 East Russell Avenue, High Point, NC 27261
www.hpha.net

Date: January 12, 2009
Media Contact: Rachael Matthews
Phone: 336/878-2312
Email: Rmatthews@hpha.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The mission of the Housing Authority of the City of High Point (HPHA) is to *provide our residents with a safe, drug-free, suitable living environment* – without exception. This mission is more than a statement – it is a way of life and the purpose that is accomplished with acute attention to detail and follow-through by all HPHA staff.

When a resident indicated in 2007 that he may have a potential problem with bedbugs, the HPHA staff immediately inspected the home and hired a professional exterminator to eliminate the problem. Since that initial complaint, the HPHA has continued to be proactive in its approach to ensuring that all residents are free from this type of infestation as it does with any potential problem. Several other residents in the same community have indicated during the last months of 2008 that they may have bedbugs also, and all of these homes have been treated in an immediate and appropriate manner by a professional.

As a preventative measure for any future queries or uncertainties, the HPHA staff has taken a positive, constructive approach. They have met with all residents at the community where the initial citing took place, distributed literature on what bed bugs actually are and the control guidelines all residents should follow, requested and received assistance from a representative of the Guilford County Health Department to be a part of the education process with residents and sent out an emergency RFP request to vendors to

continue with the extermination process as needed. The residents have been made aware of their responsibilities in eradicating the bugs and will do what they can to eliminate this nuisance.

As reported on a recent national new story, bedbugs are persistent and have become a nationwide problem recently. Part of the reason is that unlike cockroaches, fleas and mosquitoes, bedbugs are not known as disease carriers. They can travel long distances in suitcases, clothing etc. and can hide in extremely small cracks and crevices making it difficult to locate breeding sites.