



# Janet DAVIS

City Councillor  
Ward 31  
Beaches-East York



Toronto City Hall  
100 QUEEN STREET WEST  
SUITE C57, TORONTO ON  
M5H2N2

Tell: 416.392.4035  
Fax: 416.397.9289

councillor\_davis@  
toronto.ca

Twitter @Janet\_Davis

[www.JanetDavis.ca](http://www.JanetDavis.ca)

October 12, 2012

To: Chair and Members  
Licensing and Standards Committee

Re: Bed Bug Pest Control Industry Regulation

Presently there is a wide range of practices employed and services delivered by bed bug pest control providers across the city. Consumers (tenants and property owners) are advised to utilize a buyer-beware approach to contracting with pest control providers.

Unfortunately, there is an understandable lack of awareness among consumers about effective bed bug treatment protocol and service standards given the specialized nature of the service. As a result, some of our most vulnerable residents are at risk of unscrupulous practices, ineffectual treatment or extraordinary costs.

Recently I have received complaints from residents who have been exploited by pest control companies who do not use the bed bug treatment protocols that Public Health recommends. In the absence of a regulatory framework that ensures service standards in the industry, I believe we should explore whether it is feasible to license service providers in Toronto.

Public Health, MLS and other City staff are preparing a report on enforcement mechanisms to address bed bug infestations in Toronto. I would like to request that your Committee approve the following motion to give some additional direction to staff in the preparation of that report.

***Request the Director of Municipal Licensing and Standards to consider in the upcoming report on bed bug enforcement strategies, the feasibility of licensing bed bug treatment providers in Toronto.***

Bed bugs have become a serious and growing public health concern, and we should look at all approaches to address this problem.

Sincerely,

Janet Davis  
Ward 31, Beaches-East York

